

Still Alive With Sir Clive!

# ZXir QLive Alive!

The Timex/Sinclair North American User Groups Newsletter

Volume 8 No. 1

Spring '88

Chairman

Donald S. Lambert

Ansburn, IN

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ESTABLISHED 1991 THE TIMEX/SINCLAIR NORTH AMERICAN USER GROUPS NEWSLETTER

# T/SNUG Information

We wish to support the following platforms: ZX-Spectrum, TS-1000 Spectrum, TS-2068, Z88 and QL. If you have any questions about any of these fine Sinclair, contact this:

## Chairman

Chief Moderator  
Donald S. Lambert (jmsw)

## Vice-Chairmen

### Tape & JLD PD Library

D G Smith  
425 Stone St  
Johnstown, PA 15906  
814-332-8998

### Z88 Library

Dave Bennett (jmsw) (TS)  
1375 Timber View Dr  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17053-9145  
717-732-4334

### QL Hacker's Journal

Timothy Brennan  
38732 Lexington St  
Fremont, CA 94534  
twrenn001@pacnet.com

### TS-2068

Rad Humphreys (jmsw)  
30944 Cullen Pl  
Delta, BC V4C 3G5 Canada  
604-583-2519

### QL PD Library

John Donaldson (jmsw)  
133 Foxwood Cir  
Greene, IL 60324-1831  
603-232-0147

### AERCO & Z80 Compiler

Kosh Witten  
41824 Ashbury Dr  
Mt. Clemens, MI 48034

### BBS —see GATORs—

Bob Swager (contact)  
613 Parkside Cir  
Schaumburg, IL 60197-1647  
800-843-7857 was 317-336-8008

Any of the above can also be reached by E-Mail through the Club BBS 847-632-5558

## ZXir QLive Alive!

Is the newsletter of T/SNUG, the Times Sinclair North American User Groups, providing news and software support to the T/S community in a **VOLUME** of four newsletters per year, beginning with the Spring (March) issue.

T/SNUG's main goal is to preserve and encourage the use of Sinclair computers by providing an open forum for the exchange of knowledge, building and maintaining of software libraries. Providing vendors, repair service and members with free ad space.

It is the user groups and individual subscribers, rather than the vendors, that provide the necessary support for the newsletter. Vendors and developers receive the newsletter free of charge, though contributions from vendors and user groups is graciously accepted. Please support our vendors and service providers whenever possible.

If you have a problem or you have solved a problem, please share it with the rest of us. No problem will be considered unimportant.

## Editor/Treasurer

### Publisher

Ashley PD Library

If you can keep T/SNUG alive by an annual contribution of \$12 for one **VOLUME** made payable to Albed Kahale. Send check to -

**ABED KAHALE**  
3943-S FLAT ROCK CT  
SERRA VISTA, AZ 85625-6874  
520-378-3434

Back copies are available for \$1.00 each postpaid.

## Cren\$ury Notes

As of March 16, 1998, we have a balance of \$991.51

## Article Contributions

Send in your articles by tape or disk and your inputs to—

**DONALD S. LAMBERT**  
1001 KIBLINGER PL  
ALBURN IN 46706-3516  
Phone 219-525-1372

By hardcopy, internet or modem (3-10 G) to

**Albed Kahale**

E-mail: AKahale@compuserve.com

## GATOR's TWISTED PAIR

To better within the Sinclair Community, four 24-hour a day BBSs are now provided to serve you. You are encouraged to exchange mail and use the files sections of these boards. BBSnames and site are available to all.

**Q-Box BBS 810-354-9478**  
Livon, Michigan

**SCC Server Jon Marwan**  
<http://members.tripod.com/~holmes/>

**SOX BBS 830-882-6883**  
Tucson, Arizona

**Club BBS 847-632-5558**  
Arlington Heights, Illinois

If you know the internet EMail address of a Sinclair user, but do not have access to Internet, simply address your E Mail to GATOR. Sinclair on the 24-hour Club BBS and include the name and E Mail address of the user you wish to reach. This checks the Club BBS lists here to make if you expect a reply.

We encourage you to exchange mail and contribute to the LPLCAD system. Call and register using your first last name and phone number along with a password you want to get. **Please & Thank!** Do not say to do anything else at the time.

When you within the next time, you will have Level 3 security and be able to register full user privileges. The BBS has smaller sections called conferences. Select "1" for "Join a Conference". Select "THROW" to go into the Sinclair Section. The mail you then send will only be from other T/S users. Use extension AHT for articles. AHS for ads and HWG for news when LPLCADing.

For help contact the SYMP. Bob Swager, by leaving a message, mail, E-Mail or phone. [CEINQ04@comcast.com](mailto:CEINQ04@comcast.com)

# Input/Output

by Alfred Nahale

Alfred,

Please renew my membership to ZXr QLive Alive for the next year. I would also like to help Rod move his stocks of Sinclair equipment and supplies to Boulder, Iowa.

**Please add \$100 to T/30/96**

contribution.

Sincerely,

Earl Kleiglass

Tempe, AZ

May 1996 be your best year ever! Vol. 3 #4 '97 is a great issue. Thank you, Earl!

Dear Sir,

Enclosed is a money order for \$25. \$10 for membership and \$10 earmarked for the B44C project. Thanks

Robert Schmitke,

Machine Shop Supervisor

Piscataway, NJ

Keep up the good work!

Merry Xmas, the **EXTRA \$12** is a donation for whatever you need. Thanks.

John Pagano

Los Angeles, CA

I am interested in TOS/UNG, please send me more information.

I am really interested in +2a, I have two broken 2061s

I am not familiar with the +2a, I am sending you a copy of ZQW.

The +2a was a Sinclair Spectrum, after Alan Sugar bought the company, it was the last Spectrum design on the market. Oddly it came after the +3. Thanks for the info about TOS/UNG.

BTW, Have you subscribed to the news group comp.sys.sinclair? Also, check out my homepage @ [www.alberta.net/~alndensity](http://www.alberta.net/~alndensity)!!

Andrew Densley

[alndensity@alberta.net](mailto:alndensity@alberta.net)

Regarding Rod's so-called critique of our main menu program on page 13, he doesn't know all the facts. For example, the menu is coded IN-LINE at lines 38 and 40, because the equivalent screen string takes up two additional banks on disc, and there are no more free banks. Rod didn't notice that, only because Alfred ran out of space on page 17, with which to display the full listing.

Sorry, Rod!!!

David H. Lasey

In answer to Bill McKelvey's need for good DTP software, we recommend Sam Lerner's Pixel Print Plot on

disc #11 of your TTSUC Memory, or, better, Sam Lerner's Pixel Print Professional on disc #28 of your TTSUC Memory. Professional is great, but it DOES require RAMDISK, too! Now, that supporting graphics come with disc #11 (font, table pictures, etc.) We have figured that one out, and it works, whereas WordMaster by Jack Delaney is still on our shelf. But, this latter DTP software will surely DO it needs, also. The thing is, that he needs to be comfortable with it first, something we could never do!

David E. Lasey

## 11 CORRECTION 11

Bob Swager wrote the Ultimate Assembler article. But, CLEAR 2707 wastes one byte "every time" (should be CLEAR 270615).

We occasionally use RAND USR CODE "d" instead of RAND USR H for three good reasons.

1. saves 14 bytes every time

2. executes faster

3. during critical code, H can vanish, not CODE "d"

1. The CODE file is three bytes shorter for RAND USR H, but you have to add in the code length for LET H=100 and at least five bytes for storage of H in the Variable Table. On the other hand, "d" is always stored in ROM as a constant and takes zero more bytes for storage!

2. Use of variable like H can really slow down a program, whenever there are lots of variables. You see, variable H is accessed by Table-Lookup on the variable list, and every use of H would be a slow serial access!

3. Since "d" has a fixed location in protected lower core it is imperative to operations like CLEAR, NEW, and

DISC drive malfunction, which often make our variable like H disappear, by the time they are needed. If we only had a model for such brilliant use of code, just during development but before being stored away we would be writing, instead?

ENTER the code below, and use for yourself!

10 LET H=100

20 RAND USR H

replaces FREE from 32432 to 32427

10 RAND USR CODE "d"

replaces FREE from 32432 to 32440 QED

David E. Lasey

Dear Sir,

Hello, I would like to subscribe to your Newsletter ZXr QLive Alive. Thank you for sending me the complimentary copy, it is a great magazine. I presently own several Sinclair machines: 2 (broken) 2061's, 1 Sinclair +2a.



EX-Spectrum (38) and our EX-41. I also use Z80 simulator for my PC. If you have access to the Internet, I also have a homepage at <http://www.alpha1.net/~adamsky>, that has a big section on Sinclair computers.

Thank you very much and I am looking forward to my subscription. Sincerely,

Andrew Danaby  
Greenville, FL

Dear Abel,

The simulator says "Re-Up Time" has arrived yet again, and enclosed is my check. As long as you remain willing to put together this very nice, thick quarterly publication, the least we other T/S enthusiasts can do is keep our membership up.

I saw Bob Sawyer's note on the B&B Project. He mentions the T/SPLUS treasury is low; but, across the page, you indicate the treasury had \$882.87 as of December '93. That's low??? Most 8-bit user groups would kill for that much money in the bank! Anyway, my check is for \$17 (not \$12) in order to include an **extra \$3 contribution toward the B&B Project**. I hope it helps.

I can't say I've done much in the T/S world in recent months. I've researched some other 8-bit systems recently (like an Apple IIc), but I've also been spending more time in the DOS world. Starting with a cranky 486DX unit last year (your before?), I've since gotten an 486S, 433MHz and a 4048S, the latter two just in the last week. With prices as low as they are on older DOS equipment (the 486 was \$159 without monitor, the 486 was \$173 including a VGA monitor, and the 4048 was free), it's pretty difficult NOT to get into the DOS world. Best example, however, that there are add-ons and not replacements, to paraphrase the glibly, they can have my T/S equipment when they pry it out of my cold, dead hands.

Merry Christmas to you, and I'm just positive that Santa Vint will have a white Christmas! Sincerely,

Gillian Y. Parrish  
Beggs, OK

Dear Abel,

Enclosed please find my contribution for the coming year: **and \$12 towards B&B**.

Thanks to all of you for your fine work in keeping the group alive.

May '94 be interesting and prosperous for each of you.

Hugh Stevens  
Chula Vista, CA

Computing In The 90s

When it comes to computing for the masses, Microsoft would have you believe that the true sensation of Apple's graphical user interface (GUI) is the vision of the future — ease of use, power to the people. But, promising that you are a "real" person, there are may be many pitfalls along the way if you take the Windos (Windows/late) path instead of using a computer like the Tandy-Sandus 386S.

The truth remains, that the 386S may still be a better computer for many people — *more so for new comers*.

Here are some of the reasons:

Startup - 386S - 5 to ten minutes to plug in the cables and turn on and start computing.

Windos (Win-late) - hours, or days - depending on version.

Software - This is not to say that the 386S is ideal. There are some drawbacks, but that is to be expected after 15 years of software development. For example, Al Pang has mentioned that he has an interest in WinOS because he wants to run some language translation software. But, he has NOT felt the need to write what may be a when limited access is the "hot" area of computing, as much as that Microsoft's shortcomings in that area of computing have incurred the scrutiny of the Justice Department.

Cost - low vs. thousands.

Well, you get the idea. AL

maybe you should write something for ZQ41 just so that members can look in the knowledge that their Sinclair doesn't have whatever problems you may experience with WinOS.

Al Pang

Windows 95 floated in an sea of promises: it was the operating system that was supposed to be easy to navigate, prevent system crashes, solve all your installation problems, balance the federal budget, and bring about world peace. Now, two and a half years later, we know better.

Despite the many promises (and many service releases, bug fixes, and updates), many features in Windos will leave us getting our teeth and reaching for a bottle of aspirin (or scotch). These aren't necessarily catastrophes that will wipe out your data, just everyday glitches that annoy and irritate— enough to make you want to stick pins in your Bill Gates doll.

For a guy who used Windows since 1987 at work, it is like learning how to drive a tricycle after driving a motorcycle. A whole new game.

Dear Mr. Kahala,

**I enclosed an extra \$3** you can either

apply to your dues or loan it into the B&B project.

Thank you again for hanging on. Uncle Oliver's original computer - The Z88 is the one I use the most because of world. Francine Sklar  
Loch  
Shedrake, NY

Dear Abel,

Thank you much for the nice job of reprinting the QPC article. Perhaps we may have at least caused the curiosity of some as to what QPC can do to upgrade Q8, computing and help keep it



Abled

Wish best wishes for the New Year!

Bob Hartung  
Hendertown, IN

Hello,

Well, here it is, the 4th of January, 1998. I am about to dispose of the as things but I want to give TSNUG one last chance to obtain it and save it from the landfill.

I understood that CATUG has put up \$250.00 to get the ball rolling. If you were to forward that amount now, I would begin shipping and would continue to ship until I have spent \$300.00 on shipping costs. At that point, I would allow up to two weeks for the next installment to arrive. If another installment of \$250.00 were received, I would again ship until I had spent \$300.00 on shipping. After that, any and all moneys that I receive would be spent on shipping costs until all items are shipped.

If any moneys remain at that time, I will return it to you and TSNUG.

If this is an acceptable plan, please let me know as soon as possible.

Rod Gowen

Abled,

I have enclosed my annual contribution **plus \$20 for the E46 Project**, I hope it is carried over. I do not use my computer too much these days, I still think that it was one of the best ones, but I still use it.

At over 70 is

Harry Miller  
Berlin, MA

To: Swager-CINGHS:Bob

From: [blawie@quest.net](mailto:blawie@quest.net) INTERNET on Wed, Jan 28,

Subject: Re: FW: Asaga help

Bob,

Back on top of a note: Still access only at the moment. Have had over two dozen calls on the phone you say is a problem with your fax. No problem. What were you using to contact me? This phone is not set to accept my attempt to use caller ID. I much prefer that and will be monitoring that as I do not like the idea of caller ID. Perhaps that was the problem.

Looking once again at trying to fit the Coordinator into our schedule. I have 73 days left retired from the Post Office.

Love,  
Frank (Dennis)

Bob,

Thanks for sending the "complete" list.

I'm going to suggest that all software for all platforms be written unless someone declares an interest now.

I am confused by Gowen listing of

Disk Dr. Sys-LoKer 960 3.25" 2880K 2048

384000 114 100 93

Disk Dr. Sys-LoKer 960 3.25" 2880K 2048

384000 114 100 93

Disk Dr. Sys-LoKer 960 3.25" 2880K 2048

384000 114 100 93

Disk Dr. Sys-LoKer 960 3.25" 2880K 2048

384000 114 100 93

Disk Dr. Sys-LoKer 960 3.25" 2880K 2048

384000 114 100 93

Disk Dr. Sys-LoKer 10240 3.25" 2880K 2048

384000 117 100 93

Disk Dr. Sys-LoKer 10240 3.25" 2880K 2048

384000 114 100 93

Does this mean that there are seven (7) LoKer Sys that can be separated from the physical drive?

I think that all 2848 hardware & peripherals should be sent. Although others have suggested 1800 stuff not be sent, I don't know enough to make an informed opinion.

If Gowen is judicious in how he packs & ships, all this could probably be sent (except the monitors & drives).

AL (Fong)

Bill Gates wanted to look good and impress everyone with his services, so he decided to measure the accomplishments of Microsoft against auto industry giant General Motors. This is a portion of the press release he approved.

"If automotive technology had kept pace with computer technology over the past few decades, you would now be driving a V-10 instead of a V-6, and it would have a top speed of 19,999 miles per hour. Or you could have an economy car that weighs 30 pounds and gets a thousand miles to a gallon of gas. In either case, the sticker price of a new car would be less than \$50."

General Motors read the press release and issued a brief response. "Yes, but would you really want to drive a car that crashes four times a day?"

Abled,

Dues + \$25 for the E46 fund.

Bob Barrett  
Fort Myers, FL

Hello Rod,

January 11, 1998

You should have received the disk by now updating you on the RM3 project.

Bob Swager called and we had a discussion on the best possible way to make ends meet with the \$342 that we have on hand.

We want to limit the shipping expense to a minimum to stretch our dollars.

The items that we would like shipped to J Shepard are to be only Sinclair hardware and direct plug-ins.

Of course this will exclude the following:

No IBM compatible

No books or magazines

No disk drives

No disks

No printers except for the 2040

Also, if possible, can you ship UP37?

J Shepard address is

JOHN J SHEPARD

281 130TH ST

DOVER IN 46012

When mailing by other than US Mail the following should be added:

The first house 1/4 mile west of the intersection of US Highway 155 and Boone County road E-16.

Ph # (515) 645-6370

Thank you from all of us

Abled

Dear Albin,

I wonder why my Email address was not included on the Sender E-Mail List? Perhaps it is because I don't call my long distance BSIs. However I am quite active on the Internet. My address is chabernet@pacnet.net

I find that the 238 listlink program mentioned in the last issue works fine with Mac OS 8. Not bad for a program that was written for Sys 4 on the late Eightsies. I must not have the troublefree Eightsies that Bill Collins has.

I find that a good source of 238 information on the Internet is the 238 Forever page. This is run by Gary Lammner. The address is <http://www.manusca-demon.co.uk>

There is all sorts of 238 information and a complete library of files. The page is mostly text so it should be accessible for users using text browsers such as Lynx. I see that the entire former 238 Users' Club Library is included on the 238 Forever page. I was told by the former Club head librarian that these files were not to be placed on any file server. Perhaps they changed their policy. Which is good. I believe those files should be accessible by everyone especially since the group does not exist anymore.

Dave, Rembert

Hello Albin,

Received your letter and the check for \$142.00 today.

Am a bit disappointed that so much of the TS stuff that I have left will end up in the local landfill. I saw you a list of the same that I had left in stock of the TS things (Hewer received it). I never had any intention of shipping any of the IBM clone items or related software/hardware. What I wanted to see salvaged was the actual TS hardware (1000/3000/3040/3020 /Q/L/Misc circuit boards and other items) as well as the TS software (cartridges, cassette, & disk).

It now appears well as all of the cassette, cartridge, and disk based software as well as all of the NEW TS books left will be disposed of in my local transfer station for the landfill.

I have found a home for the IBM items so will not have to deal with them any longer.

I can guarantee that ALL of the remainder will be gone by the end of March, 1998! As I have already been trying to get rid of this stuff for over 2 years. I will not extend the deadline any longer than that.

I am sure that folks will understand that I need to move on with my life. I am working closely with the Oregon State Commission for the Blind as a computer consultant and web support for IBM and iSeries computer products. It is a volunteer position so does not pay the bills. I still do some IBM consulting on the side and have my SSDA to keep me going.

I thank you guys for the long-time support and for trying valiantly to salvage at least a portion of this stuff.

I will await your confirmation of exactly what you want me to ship before I begin. Remember, I said

before, I will return \$100.00 of the money for any work and time as well as to help cover the costs of packaging and labeling and transport to the local UPS pickup point. There is a \$3.00 charge each time I take a load in to be shipped. As I cannot read the boxes and labels any longer, I have to pay a helper to come in to help me get it all out. I will pay her out of that \$100.00 and at \$5.00 per hour, I hope that the job does not take too long. There will be a LOT of sorting to do.

I am enclosing a copy of what I have left in the TS line. Please look it over, make a check mark to the left of the items you think you want shipped and send it back to me with your reply and I will use it as a guide in getting things out to you.

If this sounds reasonable and fair to you, let me know. If not, let me know and I will return your check un-cashed.

Awaiting your reply,

Sincerely,

Rod Gowen

Hello,

In a telephone conversation with Rod Gowen of BMG Enterprises yesterday I was mentioned that you are the lead person for a user group (TSNUJG) for Sender and Timesaver computer users. I would appreciate any information on this group and how to join. I've been an owner since 1993 and had thought that after the demise of Time Designer Magazine there was no one left supporting these computers.

I am trying to locate hardware and software users for my 3000, and T3000 (Riscworks, disk utilities, modules, etc.). Can you tell me if there is anyone still offering stuff for sale/trade?

Thanks,

Jack Bourswright

Beard, Oregon

[jbours14@aol.com](mailto:jbours14@aol.com)

Albin,

Thanks for the prompt reply. It's nice to know that there are folks still interested in these machines. I certainly would appreciate a copy of the newsletter. Hopefully it will have the information as to how to send my membership payment. If not, please send me that information and I will send it promptly.

Thanks again,

Jack Bourswright

Beard, OR 97701

Albin,

I mailed you a check for \$8. This for the BMG Project from CA/TUG members.

**Thoresen      \$4**  
**Dorbusen      \$4**

-----CATCH-----

Albin,

I received the sample EQA/ newsletter today. Thank you! Expect my subscription payment.

I noticed that back issues can be purchased. Are all of the back issues available? Also, I noticed that the back issue price was 35 cents but it cost 75 cents to mail the sample issue to me. Maybe the back issue price should be

raised to at least cover the postage costs. :)

Jack Boatwright  
Bend, Oregon

Sender: Bob Swager-CHENGB@jared.net.com  
To: [ed7725@earthlink.net](mailto:ed7725@earthlink.net) (Doug Gillette)  
Subject: RE: TSNUG XMO Project  
>WHO IS/DO cover it?

A: [Real and it should, he will let us know one way or the other]

>I'll send the 134. I need a few more days to figure financial stuff

>2. Ship as much as possible with 10 copies of each tape, plus 10 copies of my 2044 and QX tapes. Send as many more tapes as possible. I'm a QX and 2048 person too

>3. Let me know how much is left or if all is sent

>4. I'll send more \$ depending how much is left

Like I said, there should be nothing left over I'll pay to send everything (except we'll see about all the tapes)

A: [What I shipped plans to do is ship the items that someone requests to that requester for the cost of shipping only. That requester is presumed to be Frank Davis. It could be anyone else. It will be published in ZQ44 newsletter]  
>You mean if somebody wants something they just ask for it and send shipping money?

>Next question, how did TSNUG become in charge of this project?  
-----GATOR-----

Ated is this,

Yes, I would be willing to pick up from a bus station. There is a Greyhound/Amtrak station in Ames, IA, where the Iowa Dept. of Transportation is located (my employer). It's also home to the Iowa State University Cyclotron, who may do all right in college basketball this year. But, I'm not really that big of a sports fan, so don't know why I chose that as

Anyway, if we were to send by bus, since my only mode of carrying the packages home is by way of my 1980 Chevy pickup, I would be concerned in how many loads that it would take, to ensure my enthusiasm to bus shipment. If more than one you see I would have to take the balance to my sleep storage to get that away from the bus station. In that case, I may be more inclined to offer to pay the difference to have it shipped by UPS, who as well as Fed Ex, Parlatone and RPS, deliver to our home.

The address you have is correct. These shippers, however like to have some additional information on the shipping label following the address. That info is as follows:

This address is the first house 1/4 mile west of the intersection of US highway 169 and Boone County road E-18, Ph # (515) 844-4378. You drive with convenient city addresses probably don't understand the need for all that, but since you're captive for the moment and my previous experiences produced a gift for job and winter time colds have set in ... this is why.

Our home is actually in the city limits of the small farming hamlet of Bonholm, so named for its water tower in Sweden, by the predominantly Swedish population. (I'm 1/2 Swede - careful with the dumb Swede comments, I have Norwegian friends, Ha!)  
Rural mail is normally carried out of Post Office in larger towns, even though we have our own office. The

nearest town is Ogden and back in the RFD (Rural Free Delivery) days our address was Rural Route #4, Box 124, same zip. The county road we live on is E-18, but that was named by the GPS folks. Recently, The Boone County Board of Supervisors decided we had grown sophisticated enough to have #18 and so needed #1. (Some members and RRP4, Box 134 didn't comply with federal guidelines that would partially fund our local #1. Soooo, even though that's good to name our road E-18, the #11 is bad to name it different and to RRP4 on E-18 because 134th St. and our locator number is 131 and the Post office gave in and that's our address.

ECU, the shippers keep wandering around Bonholm trying to find 134th St. (there is only about 20 streets), and our packages would go back to the office. So, after much frustration and return packages from the relatives for Christmas, we arrived at the "down the road a piece and phone number" address to where we no problem. Now wasn't that fun Ated! Now you know what Bobby has been putting up with for almost 10 years. I think that's how long I've been at CAVUG, ever since Gary Lumsberry

J. (Shepard)

Hardware: 486 - T3E T3 - Character: 66 - Windows 95

Dear Ated,

I just ran across some items that might interest a collector type:

1 - EXX1 in a large keyboard (with repeat, dest repeat, reset, monitor alarm, etc. keys. (the original EXX1 housing is available)

1 - Zaxxi Mod # ZVM 121 Monitor

1 - ZEX 14K Ramdisk

1 - MEMORPAR Controls type parallel printer LP module

1 - MemMod Word Processor module

2 - "Getting Acquainted With Your EXX1" (2nd. edition) book - vsm 71m 3414101

10 - EXX1 program tapes - including Softbyte's "EXX1 Toolkit" volume

I also have another AMERK Amtek III dual disk drive unit w/power supply and 8 TBMEX 3" disks. Obviously everything is good

I'm looking for offers on any or all of the above (including shipping costs)

Fred Horn

230 N. French Rd.  
Amherst, NY 14228

HiEd Ated,

I recently bought a Utopia Centronics Interface for my EXX1 which came with no instructions. I am wondering if you would know where I can find them. Maybe

someone who reads ZQ44 could help

me. I can probably figure it out, but it's always nice to have the instructions for options one may not realize is possible. Also, information on the printer cable used for this would be helpful as well. Thanks,

Jack Boatwright  
47725 Fryrear Rd  
Bend, OR 97701

Hella Albed,

The bank issues came the other day. Thanks so much, it's nice to feel connected to the TSN community again. I was reading the Winter '93 issue about the effort to get the R&D stuff into storage.

Too bad I didn't get involved a month or two sooner. I have been to Rod Gowen's business and know about how much inventory he has. We live about 160 miles apart. I have no isolated 38613 storage shed that could have housed his inventory right here in Oregon, and, I could have picked it up saving shipping charges.

Anyways, are you still making donations to get this project completed? If so let me know. As an alternative, I would still be willing to pick up and store whatever can't be shipped due to lack of funds. I too would hate to see this equipment end up in a landfill. Thanks,

Jack Boatwright

Hella Jack,

You are not too late dear friend. Nothing has been cast in stone as yet.

I forwarded your message to Bob Swager who is heading the RMG Project.

Your offer is too good not to be acted upon. I believe that you will hear from Bob, his URL is [cmg75@earth.net.com](mailto:cmg75@earth.net.com).

Yes, we are still looking for donations.

Bye and take care. Albed

Al,

About your question pertaining to the moving of inventory to end users. TSNUG felt that it should have no pecuniary interest in that question. As we saw it, if there were any arguments about money, the project would become a disaster. Those who donated the RMG project were Don Lambert, the chairman, Keith Watson, Don Waterman and John Ingelbaker of the Michigan Group, Nader Paulson, John Donaldson, Cy Harro, Larry Sasser, Phil Kwiatkowski, Bob Mersh and Bob Swager of the Blues group, all members of TSNUG.

Again, the extent of the project is the moving of the inventory from Rod to J at Beekdale. The question of how to get the inventory from Don Beekdale to the end user was left to J and Frank Davis. Frank had nothing negative to say about the TSNUG effort when he attended the Chicago-computer club picnic attended also by Waterman and Ingelbaker. When Lambert brought the letter from Rod to the October CATTG meeting, all present agreed to start the ball rolling as the TSNUG RMG project was now formulated. So, Al, when I am asking for more is your concept of how to best get the inventory from J to the end user.

You have heard my idea, now to hear from you and others. Address your thoughts to me, Albed, and J.

-----GATTCG-----

Rod,

It is not our intention to send only the 3240 you just received. Some groups have not yet had meetings to discuss the RMG Project. Our announcement did not get into ZXr QLive Alive! newsletter since enough Blues readers only received their copies at the last week meeting.

More money will no doubt come in. We have no

concept of the volume and cost to ship all the items. Can you give us some idea of the proposed use? What we will try to promote the time to ship first. Hopefully enough Blues will come in down the road in time to account as much as possible from the lead fill. -----GATTCG-----

Hella Albed & Jack,

My phone is number is 941 394-7333. I will be at home the rest of this week. Won't be back in the office until next Tuesday. Call anytime between now and Tuesday; someone should be here. I'm usually up until 11 PM-12:00pm, Pacific time.

How soon does Rod want this picked up? I need to get my logistics together.

I also need to know about how much is left, i.e., is it one pickup load, should I plan to put the male rats on my truck in order to carry more etc? I would like to get everything in one trip if possible, if not I would temporarily store part of it at my Sister's farm (so, not as a home, ) located near Salem, about 40 miles from Rod. That way I could get it all in one day, then take more time getting it across the Cascade Mountains to where I live in Central Oregon.

Glad to be able to help.

Jack Boatwright

To

Booth, Al	<a href="mailto:boothal@pitt.af.mil">boothal@pitt.af.mil</a>
Kingsley, Ed	<a href="mailto:edk4@ad.com">edk4@ad.com</a>
Mallory, Bob	<a href="mailto:74076.1245@compuserve.com">74076.1245@compuserve.com</a>
Norton, Gary	<a href="mailto:garyn@world.net.com">garyn@world.net.com</a>
Paulson, John	<a href="mailto:john.paulson@msn.com">john.paulson@msn.com</a>
Skajavskis, Tom	<a href="mailto:tskips@pano.com">tskips@pano.com</a>

It appears that your group may be the only group I know of that may still use ZX00/TS1000/TS1500 computers. Is this a fact?

The reason I ask is that TSNUG has raised a small amount of money to recover some but not all of the RMG inventory from a lead fill. Our funds are low and the time limit is short. If your group has no future use for the ZX00/TS1000/TS1500 portion of the inventory, TSNUG would consider it. Frank Davis of FWD computing has said that he has enough of ZX00/TS1000/TS1500 kind of stock and he needs no more. Can you help us make a decision in this matter?

Bob Swager for TSNUG. Thanks in advance.

Please forgive me if you received multiple copies of this message before. This is my first attempt at a group e-mailing using AOL software. -----GATTCG-----

To All

Thursday, January 12, 1994

I am home this week after having Rodney's nose removed on Monday so I am at e-mail address [SP0C@earthlink.net](mailto:SP0C@earthlink.net), my wife's home address.

Because I do not know if each and every one of you belong to TSNUG in one way or another and read ZXr QLive Alive! (ZXrA) newsletter or not, I will write to as many e-mail addresses as I have in my collection.

Rod Gowen through the year of 1993 reported that someone come forward and for \$5000 take over his remaining Sinclair inventory. The consequence would be that the inventory would wind up in a lead fill. In October Rod sent a letter to Don Lambert, the Chairman of

ZXr QLive Alive!



TSNUG), modifying the offer. He would keep \$100 for his time and trouble to pack up the Sinclair inventory and send it to the recipient. He would return the unused portion the remaining \$900 to recipient.

In the last issue of ZQ41, TSNUG proposed a charity donation to TSNUG to sponsor what has come to be called the RMG Project. Any money received for the project would be forwarded to Rod to supply him with the requested \$100 plus shipping money. The ultimate destination is Berkeley, Iowa, the only storage location TSNUG could find. At this way money \$140 has been sent into TSNUG from many charitable groups and individuals and most of it has already been forwarded to Rod. This means that \$240 of the \$340 remains for shipping costs. As Rod is blind, he will have to pay someone to pack items from the \$100. He has a deadline of March 1, 1994 to clean out the inventory.

As time is running out fast, I wish to keep all those interested a top of things. Because I don't know who all those might be, I ask you all to reply to this message and I will forward Rods last mail received Wednesday January 21, 1994 to you. Anyone not interested can reply to me to remove their names from the list.

Some will be considering the project as up-coming user group meetings. Some have considered writing in donations to the project but have not gotten around to it yet. Rod seems a bit disappointed with the smaller amount sent him but we will assure him that at least a little more is coming. He has sent an updated list to Albi Kabala, the TSNUG treasurer, to pack and choose from. It seems that Rod is being generous.

If there are any questions about the project, contact me or Albi Kabala.

You put out a request last year for e-mail updates. can you update me?

Jon Kantor, I don't have an e-mail address for Greg Etnop, does he have one?

-----GATOR-----

Hi Albi,

Bob sent me a list of the stuff that afternoon ... while I only glanced at it, I did do not see how it can end up coming so much to ship?

Personally, I am a little offended by the accusation that valuable stuff will end up in the landfill because TSNUG is not making enough of an effort to give it. Well, that's what I get by reading between the lines.

Al Fong

Hi Albi,

Thanks for reading along the road.

Yes

Your thoughts parallel mine ... he wanted way too much for most of the stuff.

Since I have to believe that ALL Sinclair interfaces are Shagrat (i.e., IBM format) compatible, I would say that none of the disk drives should be sent.

The Watford drive (if you are not familiar with it) is a real find ... no one should use one ... mainly because you cannot

get tapes (wafers) for it anymore.

Similarly, few people use the microdrive cartridges on their QL ... "regular" QL disk drive interfaces are cheap, and the drives are cheap ... it is something Naur might be interested in for an experiment, but, it would be worthless to him without work.

The A & J Microdrive might have some value ... a probably weight between two-and-three pounds depending on the power supply (the actual microdrive unit might be the same one found in QLs). I presume that QL microdrive cartridges could be re-formatted to be used on it.

The PC Ticker & related software are the only "odd" things that I thought were interesting ... but, as I said, I don't think I would be willing to spend what Frank would probably ask for it just for a few hours of amusement ... it should be less than a pound in weight. There was one book, but I am not sure (now) if it relates to programming the 68000 in machine code, or the QL ... if you know what I mean.

The QL serial-to-parallel interface is light ... less than a half pound with packaging ... worth having ... it should work with any "standard" 9-pin serial port. Of course, it doesn't do the non-ASCII to ASCII translation that 3864 printer interfaces do, but, could be modified for use on a 238 (male/female connected on the QL).

I don't have a clue what the Micro disk adapter is ... Naur might know.

Al Fong

Hi Albi,

I got a call from Bob Swager this afternoon. We had a nice, long conversation. I understood Bob to say that Rod would like everything gone by March 1. That certainly won't be a problem. It was decided that I would contact Rod to work out the logistics between us. I will call him tomorrow.

I will mailing everything after I get it here and get the list to you I assume. Bob thought it would be mostly monitors, disk drives and other heavy items. Later,

Jack

Bill, (Cable)

There is a limited amount of funds that have been donated for the RMG Project, about \$150 so far. Since the CATUG group has only 4 QL users out of 21, and only one of those, an out-of-towner has any knowledge of what on the list would be too old and useless to waste shipping money on, perhaps your group might suggest those items that should be discarded to save

**PRESIDENT TAFT SIGNS  
PROCLAMATION ADMITTING  
ARIZONA INTO THE UNION**

At 10:00 O'clock on Friday, February 22, 1912, at Phoenix, Arizona, President Taft, in Accordance with the Proclamation of March 14, 1912, signed the following Proclamation:

Feb. 1912

TSNUGs funds?

-----GATOR-----

From 68000@compuserve.com (Bill Cable)

To: GATOR (SPDC@compuserve.com)

We haven't discussed the RMG project. Our user group that meets every other month are pretty much QL users. As I understand it the equipment involved is mostly older rom QL stuff. I certainly think a usable good price is

save the staff as the project is trying to do. As an organization we charge a minimal fee to you that just covers our newsletter so as a group we do not have any surplus to contribute. We are having a meeting in February and I will bring it up to see if anyone is interested in helping out.

I believe in late April there will be a general Sinclair show in Bedford, PA that will have broad range of Sinclair users attending. I think that it would be a good place to look for support for the project. Frank Davis is handling the details but having a table for the RMG Project would get some support. Good luck.

Bill

Sinclair\_jphapark@comcast.net  
Bob and Alvin,

Well, it appears that the Rod is pushing this thing of yours ... I go away for my normal (??) tour of my first state, as is the course of my job, and return to a heavy of mail on the subject. I'll remind you here that I check my mail only on 10 days a week, so that is when I'm normally home. I'll do so for replies to this as well. You, all that Sinclair staff is required for private carriers otherwise they'll wind up wandering around Boone County trying to find the address, which gives me a whole lot of confidence as it is a 911 imposed address, which I hope the ambulance will successfully use should I or mine need it. Ain't government great?

It seems as you relate Rod's response to his disappointment in the ~ \$1000 the project has sent so far, that he is planning on using UPS. That then should be the carrier we will prepare for. So, I'll plan on them delivering unless otherwise notified, but it would be prudent for me to know when that is so that when it doesn't arrive as a timely fashion, I can inquire as needed.

As I read between the lines of these last steps, I think that you might consider shutting your eyes for a day or two while you're awake, and you might get a perspective on why Rod is perturbed with how long this process has taken. Regardless of how young the current (and only legitimate) RMG Proj. is, Rod has had an offer to accept to take the stuff off his hands for a very long time. Now, Bob, I think you need to watch for my honesty to Al Ping (and my others) remind themselves that I was a C&T/U member before he was and explain that I will publish the very bill and a property list as soon as my electric fingers can send same to you for the Q&A. Excuse me, Alvin, while I speak to Bobby.

All kidding aside, Karen and I will include you in our papers for a more gentle and healing recovery. Stage 11 is well with you, Alvin and yours. To you both I hope that I am making this end of this Proj. as easy as can be and if you are where I'm not, that you'll not stand on formality pointing it out to me. I want to get as much of this stuff from Oregon to less as we can, I only wish my finances would allow me to offer the balance to get it all!

Alvin, Alvin, Bob will explain that early in our friendship we came to understand that part of our (joy) following TS as a way to compensate was the old suppositional-bucket syndrome and it still exists in those here parts as I'm still financing the education of four over twenty daughters as they "find themselves". To their credit, the educational expense is declining, but not quickly enough for

me to do anymore than I am.

Sincerely, J

Headlines: 43 - TS: 23 - Chambers: 36 - Winslow: 35  
Alvin,

I got the list scanned at work yesterday. Could not do anything with them because I had AWANA meeting last night. Because I'm working this week, I have to go to bed at a decent hour, 11pm. Tom Simon wanted to see the list to help induce funds for the project. What did you think about the Q&A portion of the list I sent yesterday and the items listed as missing from the original list? I forward it to Al Ping but am thinking about it just to get his thoughts.

It appears to me that the most valuable stuff is the 2004 collection. I hope that isn't because I'm so focused on the 2004. There are Larkins drives out which are worth maybe \$45 each. I shall also check the list against the original for missing items. I believe that we should consider the TS1000 stuff to be useless. No one has expressed interest. There is a glut of that stuff out there. It would be interesting to see how that stuff would do at the April CoCoFest in Elgin. That may be the last one. I would assume a TS1000 with software going for \$10.

-----C&T/U-----

Donations to TSNUG for the project will give \$100 to Rod Gowers for his inventory. All above that amount will pay to ship as much as possible to Headlines laws. The donations bought and pay for the shipping. The inventory will then be in the care of John Shepard. There TSNUG is done.

It is hoped that Frank Davis can draw on the inventory for cost of shipping only. But anyone can make the same deal with J. Shepard. He is the only one we could find at the North American Sinclair community that had the ability to safely store the inventory. Anyone donating must do so with no intent on getting anything in return. It is a good will thing we are doing to keep the stuff out of a land fill for now. Contributors have sent in over \$400 so far and Rod says that is not enough to move it all. He is ditching us quickly a priority list. So far, all the TS1000/TS1000 type stuff will go into the OR landfill, no one seems to want it.

The greatest amount of stuff will be the TS2004 items. The Q&A community has shown little interest in the Q&A items, Al Ping is working over the Q&A portion of the list. What might your group be interested in seeing come above ground?

-----C&T/U-----

Dear Alvin,

I am appreciative receiving the magazine, and would like to compliment both you and Donald Lambert for your dedication to the "cause".

Keep up the good work!!

Sincerely,

George Chambers  
(Toronto Times/Sinclair User Club)  
Scarborough Ont, Canada

PS: You might add my name to the Sinclair E-Mail list  
gchamw@pathcom.com

To: Sawyer-CHENGIS From: dkl@qslw.com  
Subject: Thanks!

Dear Rick, Returned from a vacation in sunny Mexico to find you fully stuffed envelope in the pile of mail on the kitchen table! A nice surprise and it's really very nice of you to take the time and effort to do that.

As I knowed through the various publications, I was pleased to note that some of the old familiar names are still out there and still involved in TFS computing all around the country. I saw a listing for Simon Electronics in San Francisco as a supplier and showed it to my wife reminding her that we stopped at there many years ago on a trip to S F and bought my first Tunes module - I think it cost about \$20.00 unboxed. Spent a fortune over the next couple of months dialing in to TFS bulletin boards all over the country at 1400bps!

All is well here, although Anita and I have both become part of the blackboard generation, we're still working and I'm still computing.

My latest project is volunteering as an estimator for a program called Senior Net, a very well organized national effort to help Senior Citizens become computer literate. Best wishes to you and yours for the coming year.

Dave Lebowitz

Hi Al,

I spoke to Rod Greena this morning. He indicated that there is no immediate rush to get the items that will be left over. He and I will coordinate that, probably around the first part of March.

He also mentioned something that could be very important to the TFS community in the future. He has files with schematics, microcass and all sorts of information on a lot of items that should probably be preserved.

I told him that I would move all the stuff, along with whatever is left after the shipments to Iowa and Ohio. Anyway, I thought I would let you know.

Jack (Hawthright)

Al,

Let me explain my feelings on monitors. A friend at work was looking for a replacement monitor for his last check computer, a Commodore. All the places looked at him like they never heard of a computer monitor before. My step dad's Amiga monitor went out. He found there is no replacement available to buy. He had to ship the broken one to a special place to get it fixed for \$190. He still doesn't have a back to the computer is still down for over three months now. To prevent these situations I bought 3 Magorion RGB monitors. If one goes out I can drop another one in. I can no longer buy new monitors for the TS2048, so one makes sense.

So if any of those monitors were sold Sinclair QL monitors I thought the QL community would want to keep them above ground. You just can't buy a new one any more.

I have no interest in these personally. I just wanted you to understand where I am coming from and my concerns. L.L.Tsang just wrote to my at homeo [qslw](mailto:qslw) all XBR/TS2048/TS1000 items. There is a plot out there already. Thanks.

-----GATOR-----

I looked at the UPS book, it contains an internet address <http://ftp.usps.com> I went there. It has a calculator icon. I

2Xs Qslw Alive

clicked the icon. It asks for origin ZIP code. I entered 90045, Rod's ZIP code. It asks for destination ZIP code. I entered 48012, the ZIP code of J Sheppard. It asks for weight, I entered 100 pounds. It asks for type of shipment. I entered "ground continental". It answered \$40.

TS2048 cost \$400, \$300 of that is for shipping. My calculator says that would allow over 100 pound boxes to move to Houston, TX. Am I missing something? Al Ping seems to indicate that there is nothing like that weight to send TV set flat and safe.

-----GATOR-----

Thanks for taking the time to investigate the exponential cost of shipping the "stuff" via UPS.

While I don't expect Greena to pack 100 pound boxes, I would think that your analysis clearly indicates that Greena should already have enough money to ship MOST of what remains - even the heavy stuff, too.

Al,

Dear Al,

I just discovered that you ran my offer of TS items in the Winter issue of QSL! (for which I Thank You)

However I should have informed you that most of the hardware was "packed up" by your readers (with the exception of the TS 2040 printer. Much to my surprise I had no requests for the books or magazines.

My apologies for not advising you when I sent the list of items that I recently acquired. Again ... Thank You for your help and your continuing efforts for the TS community!

Sincerely,

Fred Hiett [omarc@qslw.com](mailto:omarc@qslw.com)

Al,

I talked to Tom Simon before and after his meeting with the Cleveland group. They will try to send something.

I talked to Rod, he is still real friendly with me. We talked about the priority list. I told him it will come late this week. We also talked about not having the list just right - he is reading our minds and, knowing what we are trying to do, he will do his best to ship what we want. I told him that the only stuff we would leave behind is all of the TS1000 stuff and books and the likes. Also to leave behind any names of software, like 4 or 5 cases of TS2048 software. It will never move. He will send a small amount of it, like 5 pieces. He said that he agreed we had the money to send just about 700 pounds but he has over 1400 pounds of the stuff. He said the boxes that he will ship to us will be in the 40 pound area, less than \$25 a box plus a \$5 pick up charge. His house is with us on this.

Doug Gillespie has asked for a copy of the list, he may wish to make the TS1000 items. He will let us know in 3 days time. I will then forward the final list to you and you can print it out and add to disk to send to Rod.

Al Ping did the QL part. I also talked to Bill Cable and I am waiting for input from him about his meeting Sunday with MFGQUAD.

-----GATOR-----

Rick,

Not quite sure what your health status is, but hope you're feeling better and able to handle your normal business while standing on your head.

I sent this to your house once I don't read my email all I get home anyway it's of no use to bother you at work unless it's something pressing and I'm home.

It looks like the project is moving along as smoothly as can be expected and that your natural diplomatic ability has endeared yourself to Rod. (Wished you were dealing with TRAGG). As you have maintained your relations with CoCo, so have I with TL, at least to receiving the results of a list server called the river (TSNG)@river.com. This is quite active including developers, or writers, etc web members from Europe. One of their upcoming events is a first that is being hosted by TL. All of this is just an introduction to one of their ongoing activities in the salvage of equipment from landfill and the like. I wondered is there such a forum for the TS community whether it be by list server or the Web that could be vehicle for the relocation of funds to save all of Rod's stuff.

Just a thought, while I'm busy with heated breath for the announcement of shipment.

RFW I have to hand it to you Alred, for not reminding us snow berries about how nice it is down there during these recent white driftings we've been getting as springtime draws near.

You'll take care and God bless. J

*We got few feet of snow on Valet mountain peaks a couple of miles away, usually it starts in May, had more than normal run and sprinkles because of the little one - El Niño!*

*I had my share of the McWhirt blizzards and ice storms for 43 years - and a few drizzles when it took me more than 4 hours to get home from work.*

Subject: Re: RMG Privacy List

I talked to Doug. He wanted to see the list. I sent it to him. I thought he might pay to have the TS1000 stuff, or some of it, shipped right to his house. But if not, maybe there is something on the list he wants saved, he will let us know. We talked on the phone Sunday.

As for Rod, he is right on the money. He had over 1000 pounds of Satchel stuff total. He has enough money from us to ship almost 700 pounds as for Web of the moment, disk drives, multiple cases of software, books, peripherals and TS1000 stuff staying behind, a good portion of the privacy list should ship. -----GATOR-----

PS please use my other email address, CYNICON @nail.net.com so this account may go away shortly, AOL double charged us!

Hi Bob, (from Doug Gifford)

I got your message on the answering machine today OK, I will send the check to Alred. It might be a few days, I have to go over a few financial things. Like I said, I'd like to save all the things if possible. I still would like to know about a few things.

Q: Will I150 ever it?

A: (Rod said it should, he will let us know one way or the other.)

Q: If they need more will they let us know and if they have money left over will they send the change back to me?

A: (Rod Guess though a couple he is on the short side. He will let us know. There are cases of software like: TIMEX-SPILLING I (157 total copies). Would you want them all

or just, maybe 5 copies? The TS3000 people and Q1 people decided to get just 5 each maximum and keep the extras. Maybe you want the extras to use as blank tape? You make the call. Let me know.]

Q: What happens after everything has been shipped?

A: [What ever is left at RMG because of lack of funds, will go to the fund 50. I Shepard will then have the Q1, and TS3000 items in storage. You will have the TS3000 TS1100 inventory. What I Shepard plans to do is ship the items that someone requests to that requester for the cost of shipping only.

That requester is promised to be Frank Davis. It could be anyone else. It will be published in ZQA! newsletter, the newsletter of TSNGUG. Since the funds gathered for the project were donations with no contributor expecting anything in return, no money will be collected by I Shepard to return to TSNGUG or anyone else. As to how you want to handle the TS1000 items, that is your call. TSNGUG is only doing the shipping part and then TSNGUG is out of it. If you wish to advance the inventory in ZQA! that will be done for free.]

Q: What is the purpose of the project?

A: (Rod Guess had to move to some new location. His TIME/SPACE/ARK stock was no longer profitable for him. He could not afford to ship it to his new location. He would have to pay to rent it in a land fill. In his head he felt that the TS community would like to have a above ground and have a chance at collecting missing items or replacing broken items in the future.

As you may know, some left the Satchel community only after their computers or related items broke and they could not get them fixed or replaced at a reasonable price. Rod then made the offer that someone could buy the whole of his stock for \$1000. No one came forward! You know the rest. So the purpose of TSNGUG's RMG Project was to find out if donors in the TS community would sponsor the shipment of Rod Guess's inventory to the location provided for by John Shepard. These donors came forward with \$300 to ship the items. Since vendor Frank Davis and he had all the TS1000 items he needed to stock and TSNGUG was short of gathered funds TSNGUG decided to leave the TS1000 stuff behind. You came to the rescue of the TS1000 items.]

Q: I know nobody was interested in the 1000 stuff but what about the rest of it? If somebody wants something do they contact the guy in Iowa, send him the money, he sends them the item, and sends the money to Rod Guess? Would I do the same thing?

A: [That is all explained above, I hope. Let me know if you have any other questions.]

Q: Should I ask Alred these questions?

A: [I hope I have answered all the questions for you.]

-----GATOR-----

From: Alred@jaggs.net

Subject: Q1, H1400, IP, Frank's Richardson's

>What I intend to ask you what should you be at in that year?

-----GATOR-----

March 7, I will be at a Hamden in Indy, March 03-10 I will be at an Amiga show in St. Louis, April 3-4 I will be at the Dayton ComputerFest. April 13-14 I will be at the

Cascadia, May 23 I will be at the QL/Similar Show in Bedford PA. May 24-25 I will be at an all Amiga show in Toronto, Canada. The week after I will be at a MAG/Amiga show in Montreal. July I will be back for a 3 day show in Indy. Then off to London, UK, back on the last weekend of August for the 3rd Dayton Comparison, 2nd weekend of November in Fort Wayne, IN and the last weekend in Columbus, OH for an all Amiga show, and we may go to an all Amiga show in September at Sacramento CA.

Any suggestions on others? We want to add about 3 more at least. Looking for a medium size enclosed RV, and if things go well I will be looking to get a place again.

I finally got the modem back from Nasa and sent her a replacement. No more at this time, but will let you know if I find them. I will try to have the one required.

Frank Davis

Dear Albed,

I just took another look at the cover of the last issue of ZK's QLive Alive! Good thing too, it motivated me to write.

In between college (I'm still an honor student) and work, I managed to get my TS-2000 keyboard fixed and, thanks to a guy cleaning out his garage I now have a TS-2000 with cassette recorder TS-2000 and the TS printer, all in very good working order.

Real Computer Scientists Use a Simplax

Ken Harbat

Prosser, CA

Hello Jack,

There is no big rush to get the inventory from Rod.

The first of March is fine with Rod I am told. We really don't have an idea of the remaining inventory after shipments to Iowa and Ohio. We will be contacting Rod to determine how much is left and we will sure advise you.

Albed

Dear Albed,

I am wondering if it is possible to get on a list for news from the RMD Project? Should I go through Frank Davis?

Eventually yes. I don't believe that Frank stored what is in RMD's inventory at this time. The inventory has to be with Shepard. Iowa Native Frank can do anything at all for you. I would believe that you should advise J. Shepard to hold the LaRue for you, after he receives the inventory. I wouldn't bother him at this time though.

Bob Swager and I discussed 2000 disk interfaces the other day, and he made a comment indicating that the LaRue was probably the best that's still available. I would like to get one of these for my 2000 before they're all gone.

Jack

Yes you should! I agree with Bob and I have had LaRues since 1986, two disk drives and a RAMDISK. They work great until you learn how to use them.

## Timex DataLink Watch

with Gray Band - just a few left! Was \$21.04

Now \$19.99 Don't miss out on the Timex DataLink

watch. Load up to 70 entries, store time, date, names, phone numbers, appointments and more. Download information directly from your PC to this watch! It's a day-liner that fits on your wrist now at just \$19.99!

Egg Head

Dear Albed,

**Please accept my check for \$100.**

but are we sure what RMD has is worth \$100? The lot of merchandise, new and used, been used?

Joan Keady

Basketville, TX

Hi Albed,

Yes, the list came through just fine. I assume there must be some sort of problem with \$ for the names marked "For Cleveland or Jack Boatwright" and that I may not be getting up those items as well. Not a problem, I have room.

Thanks for the info and your other kind assistance. I will need to send you \$10 for the back issues of ZQ/A.

BTW, I am slowly reading through the ZQ/A back issues and have found that there are items that I never knew about, and the articles are very informative. Everyone associated is very dedicated. I'm glad I found out about the group.

I spoke to Rod on the phone this morning. He said he still hadn't received the list from you but was anticipating it coming very soon. We had a long conversation about the Times's and he put me on to a fellow in Portland who is trying to sell a complete 2000 setup. I will call him this evening.

Thanks again,

Jack (Boatwright)

Hello Jack,

Thank you for advising me about your call to Rod. I am presently waiting to receive a check from the Cleveland group for the TS-2000 inventory.

If I don't receive it early next week, I will mail the balance of the donations that I have on hand to Rod. I will keep you advised.

Albed

Dear Albed

Please ENTER and RUN the following program

```
5  LPRINT
10  LET A=D.141542653
15  LPRINT A
20  LET D=A
25  LPRINT D
30  LET C=VAL "a"
35  LPRINT C
40  LET D=C*I
45  LPRINT D
5000 LIST : FOR I=16710 TO 21130
LISTEN I: " " : PERK D: " " : IF
10:PERK I AND PERK 1:22 THEN LPRINT :
NEXT I
5000 LPRINT CHR$ PERK I: NEXT A
```

MERGE this routine into any BASIC program, which you can back LIST and dump (through 27000 say) by GOTO 5000

Get screen copies, by changing LIST to LIST and changing LPRINT to PRINT.

Lines 9998 and 9999 comprise a post-mortem dump, which does not hang up with "Error K: Invalid Color".

However, it is still not flawless, but it is adequate for most of my uses, and I thought someone might be interested.

I was studying ways of both conserving RAM storage and shortening execution time in my BASIC Code.

Now, I carry the value of PI stored in my head as 3.14159265. The 2068 stores the value of PI internally in a rather long constant, used for calculations in Double Precision.

But, the 2068 PRINTs only 8 significant digits, as shown by the LPRINT of 'v' at line 15. Looks like the LPRINT routine translates the first digit. YAH! 'v' stores it the same way, and LPRINT 'v' gives the same result at line 18.

Now, when we LPRINT it at line 43, which has the value of PI, stored internally to the 2068, then we get the proper value of PI, rounded to 8 significant digits!

Notice, that line 16 takes 26 bytes of storage, beyond the 4 bytes for line number and byte length. Line 20 takes 3 bytes beyond 4 bytes for line number and byte length, and so more.

Now, Line 40 takes only 3 bytes of storage also, since PI is only a value there.

Also, consider the source lines, in order to remove the values of the variables a, b, c, and d, above.

Line 10 defines a continuously, with value code, as 3.14159265. Thus across time is extended only, by the long length of the constant. And, look at the 17 bytes, needed just to describe the constant!

Line 25 uses variables only, and takes up only 3 bytes of RAM. But, across time depend upon the position of 'b', among all the other variables, since the 2068 does a table-look-up, by starting at the bottom of the variable file. Postage varies the variable file is determined, by the order, in which the variable is defined.

Line 40 uses the value of PI, stored in the 2068's internal calculator; but 40 occupies only 3 more bytes and, across is immediate.

So, from the foregoing can be seen, that we can save both time and space, whenever the internal constant can be used in data processing, such as PI, instead of 83 (4 bytes saved!). And, when we use variables the most heavily used ones should be defined, as much as possible (save storage space) and as soon as possible (save across time). Since the 2068 acrosses its code from the bottom up, also, heavily used code should have small line numbers, such as 1, 2, 3, as opposed to 9997, 9998, and 9999.

Well, these are the main insights, I have gained from years of optimizing 2068 BASIC code!

Well, that takes us you via the Times-Sinclair, model 2068, over the Internet.

So, KEEP ON TIME'N'IN! David  
How do you manage to overcome the 7-bit Internet?

To: [ad7@nashville.rrnet.net](mailto:ad7@nashville.rrnet.net) (D. Gillette)

Subject: RE: TS/NUG B&G project

I talked to both Rod and Abed. They are now aware that your check is coming.

The three of us have decided to divide the activity up into two projects: the TS/NUG Project and the B&G

project. This is so you can get back any excess funds not used to ship stuff to you. That is to say, if there is any money left after your stuff is shipped to you, you will get a refund. If there is any funds from the 1980 TS/NUG sent Rod, the excess will go into the TS/NUG treasury to keep TS/NUG alive.

Rod will begin packing for your shipment. I told him what goes to you is all the TS1600 related stuff and 10 copies max of my excess QL and TS2068 software. The TS/NUG B&G Project stuff will be shipped to John Shepard as above.

There is now a third person that lives about 138 miles from Rod who will pick up any excess. The excess would include books, magazines, disk drives, cases of software for any one platform, computer parts. This wanted to be what you indicated about books and cases of software.

-----GLITCH-----

Subject: TS/NUG B&G project

Hi Bob,

I sent a check for 173 yesterday, if you want to let Abed and Rod know it is on the way. I know time is running short. Didn't you say Rod was going to move onto the beginning of March? Well, hope everything goes well.

Times-Sinclair SIG

From: (Doug Gillette) [ad7@nashville.rrnet.net](mailto:ad7@nashville.rrnet.net)

Abed,

He was describing a Zebra DS-64 card that was in his box, so I put it now I'm in need of the manual as well. I talked to Rod & again... he said he thinks it, or a copy, could be in there.

Jack

You are in luck my friend, I do have the G664 manual. I will make copies and mail it to you.

Abed,

This is Andy Dandy from Florida, I'm writing about two things. First, my homepage now includes a copy of the Sinclair +2a/+3 Technical manual, scanned in by me.

There is permission from Amstrad to post it on the web and Amstrad doesn't seem to care if the information is printed, just not sold. It might be a good idea to put a copy with the newsletter. I will also be putting on my web page (within a few months) a high-res scan (3828 x 3828 total divided in 3 halves) of the +3 schematic on my page.

The other thing I want to bring to your attention is a CD available from

<http://www.adfrees.com/mmod/spacewar.html>

I just received the CD from Craig, and I can't recommend it highly enough. It's the best CD I have in my collection. It has several emulators on it that run directly from the CD and over 6000 games/utility etc on it. L&R

[adandy@att.net](mailto:adandy@att.net)

Dear Abed,

Feb 24, 98

First I would like to thank Rod Goren for his generosity. **There is a check for \$170.** Send all the 1000 items possible and 30 copies of each program tape. If you have more QL and 2068 tapes, I would like those too. If the money doesn't cover everything please let

we know and how much. Depending on how much it is I would like to save all of it. Since time is running short, you can call me or email, 440-884-8835. Thanks, Sincerely,

Doug Colquhoun

Paines Hts., Ohio

cc4311@Cleveland.rrnet.cda

Received the check Saturday, Feb. 28. Will mail Monday, March 2 to Rod.

Hello Alrod,

I went this weekend to look at some TS items owned by a fellow Red Glover suggested I contact. I was pleasantly surprised by what he had and ended up buying this old gentleman's TS items. 2 2040s, both with RGB modifications, one had a Spectrum ROM modification (and in the dock port) and a switch to toggle between ROMs) and the other had a LaFike disk interface, LRDOS and 256K RAMDisk, among other items.

The RAMDisk has a sticker on it saying "new batteries 6-1-89" and, needless to say, they were very corroded. I'm not sure how badly they may be damaged and is the reason for this email. Do you know if there is anyone around who will maybe be able to check it out for me? I believe that Larry Kenney is no longer in business, so any assistance you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

Jack Boothwright

You can check it out yourself

1. Clean the board with a damp cloth to remove the corrosion. Watch out for static electricity or you might zap (kill) the chips.
2. Install new batteries.
3. Plug it in the back and make sure it is square and making good contact.
4. Turn on the computer with the ENTER and the "P" keys pressed.
5. If it should boot up to the RAMDisk.

Good luck, sounds like you made a good deal!

I think so. As well as the 2 2040s and LaFike stuff, there was a TS1000 that was modified for video and had a 3rd party keyboard mounted over the motherboard one, 2 RAM packs for it, a cassette player, at least 250 programs (tape & disk) for both systems, manuals, power supplies, books, magazines, newsletters, a Zetex Talker (2040), Zetex Graphics pack (2040), 3 disk drives, A & J LaserDisc vcd development cable/11 MicroWiners, 4 printers (3 2040s and 1 Star Microstar), 2000 modem (mounted inside a silver painted cigar box), a lot of miscellaneous items. Boiled up it was about 14 cubic feet in 4 pretty good sized boxes. About half was books, magazines and newsletters. This guy buys everything! Need a Computer Shopper from 1983, 4, 19. Also Spyn, Time Designs, TS Horizons, The Plotter, 310M, Family Computing and more. There are some really interesting looking books, but I haven't gotten to them yet, so don't know the names.

One of the 2040s has a cute little joystick that mounts on the dock port door. Pretty cool!

I haven't really had a chance to go through everything, let alone check it all out.

If you're interested, I'll let you know what all is here when I get it unpacked and figured out. Take care,

220r QJave Alrod

Jack (Boothwright)

## The 64 Column Operating System Cartridge

The OS64 cartridge is a normal TS2040 operating system modified to provide a complete 64 column environment. OS64 provides the following features:

- (1) 64 columns on screen, this includes:
  - (a) LISTing (b) PAGE Tag (c) Editing

- (2) 64 columns to your Centronics printer, this includes:
  - (a) LPRINT (b) LLIST (c) COPY (d) space compaction

Complete Centronics printer support is built in and it is virtually error impervious. With OS64 what you see on the screen (in 64 columns) is what you get on your Centronics printer. OS64 guarantees 64 characters per line on screen for using the TS2040's special 64 column video mode.

### Limitations Of The 64 Column Mode

The 64 column video mode is a powerful hardware option because it doubles the amount of textual information that you can display on your screen, making you to program more professional applications. As it deals with real computers, enhanced features require trade-offs with other features. This is very true with the TS2040's enhanced video mode. Below will discuss the limitations of the OS64's 64-column mode.

The 64 column mode requires the use of a monochrome or RGB monitor. The visual quality of text on Color TV's or color monitors will probably be unacceptable.

The 64 column video mode does not provide FLASH. As a result the BASIC keyword FLASH will not do anything. Also, the string key cursor will not FLASH.

There is no separately selectable BORDER color; the BORDER is automatically set to the current PAPER color. During Type M/V's and LOADs you will not see changes in the BORDER area. There is no local (temporary) PAPER or INK. In OS64 all PAPER and INK commands have global effect, that is, they change the entire screen. When you set PAPER, the INK automatically goes set to a complementary color and vice versa.

### Using The Cartridge

There's not much to it. Just turn the power to your computer off, plug the OS64 cartridge in, and power up the computer. Void! A 64 column enhanced operating system is at your finger tips. Just about everything works the same as the normal event, except you have the 64 column format.

One of the things you will have to learn about is the built-in Centronics Printer Support.

### Overview

OS64 does not support the TS2040 printer. LPRINT/LLIST/COPY output goes to your Centronics printer if you have a Centronics interface attached to your computer. Built in to the system is code to support the following Centronics interfaces:

- (1) Axxon (2) Tascam-B (3) Tascam-C (4) A & J (5) Ologi
- A single P04C will select your interface. If you desire, you can provide your own interface driver in RAM and select it via the system var. This allows you to drive drivers with any protocol. (This includes RS232C, as well as Centronics)

A simple P04C will allow you to pass control codes or graphics data to your Centronics printer.

### Selecting Interface

The system defaults to the Axxon interface:

To select the A&J interface: <P04C 45515,115>

To select the Tascam-B interface: <P04C 45515,115>

To select the Tascam-C interface: <P04C 45515,115>

To select RS232C or Ologi interface: <P04C 45515,115>

To select your own interface driver programmed at address W in RAM you have to alter the new system variable P106, add it point to your routine. Use the following command to do this:

<P04C 45515 W - INT 45516>

= POKE 65524, INT (RND(36)) >

If after selecting your own, standard driver you want to re-select a system driver use the appropriate POKE from the descriptions, give the following: < POKE 65518,0 >

Sending Control Codes And Graphics Data

There are two types of data that can be sent to your Commodore printer: Characters or Control codes. Each is handled differently within the system. If you want to send control codes or graphics data to your printer you must first signal the system by clearing the appropriate variable PRDAT\_app (printer data type)

To select control code output: < POKE 65518,1 >  
< To select character output: < POKE 65518,0 >

In practice you should only select control code output for the brief period necessary to actually pass the control codes and then immediately re-select character output. Below is an example of this method. In this example we are sending the control codes for Emphasized Print mode to a Star Microcom SG100 II.

```
10 POKE 65518,1 REM PRDAT_app=control code
20 LPRINT CHR$(27);CHR$(1) REM control codes on
30 POKE 65518,0 REM PRDAT_app=character
PRDAT_app=character
```

#### Printer Output Width

Output width to your Commodore printer defaults to 64 columns to logically match the screen. What you see on the screen is exactly what you get on your printer. Thus 64 columns output is not centered on the paper, but most printers have control codes to set the left margin. Below is an example of how you would center the LPRINT/PRINT output for a Star Microcom SG100 II.

```
10 POKE 65518,1 REM PRDAT_app=control code
20 LPRINT CHR$(27);CHR$(1) REM control codes on
30 POKE 65518,0 REM PRDAT_app=character
```

#### Changing Printer Width

To change printer output width, do the following:  
< POKE 65521,width: LDCOMMODOSYS(1620) >  
NOTE: maximum width is 255

#### Suppressing System Loaded/Carriage Return

The system normally generates a Carriage return and Loaded code after each "width" or of characters, but we can suppress this by doing the following:

```
< POKE 65518,0 REM suppress loaded >  
< POKE 65511,0 REM suppress carriage return >
```

If you suppress carriage return you will become responsible for deciding when you want a carriage return. You will have to explicitly send the code when necessary. You could use the following routine to do this:

```
10 POKE 65518,1
20 LPRINT CHR$(1),
30 POKE 65518,0
```

Suppression of system CR/LF will effect LPRINT. So during program development you will have to be careful!

To re-select normal CR/LF: < POKE 65518,1 > < POKE 65511,0 >

#### Centering Copy Output

COPY output is normally aligned with the left-hand side of the printer paper. OS/4 has a built facility to allow COPY centering if you should desire it. If yes in the extended system variables area are reserved in a COPY centering control code table. The control codes necessary to set the left-hand margin for PRDATapp are different than printer or printer. If you can determine the control code sequence for your printer, you can POKE them into the table, thereby ensuring all subsequent COPY output. Below is an example of how you would do this if you had a Star Microcom

SG100 printer

```
10 POKE 65528,3 REM length of subsequent control code sequence
20 POKE 65519,27 REM ESCAPE code
30 POKE 65519,77 REM set left margin code
40 POKE 65519,19 REM left margin at column 19
```

Please note that location 65528 holds the length of the subsequent control code sequence. It is very important to have this correct.

#### Important Printer Notes

- \* Embedded print codes cause a line feed.
- \* COPY routines reset all printer modes to power up states.
- \* At the end of LPRINT/LPRINT output to your Commodore printer the printer buffer may still have the last bit of LPRINT/LPRINT data stored but unprinted. Executing < LPRINT > will force the remaining buffer to be printed.
- \* If you are connecting to your Commodore printer and a good off-line (copy, paper-out, power-off), printing BREAK will not immediately return you to BASIC. That is because, at BREAK, from the print-out routine does appear output is clear the printer, and if the printer is off-line it will wait until you service the printer and bring it back on-line before continuing.

#### OS/4 Variations

OS/4 is most respects a full functional equivalent to your normal system. The few areas where OS/4 varies from your normal system will be discussed in the following sections.

#### Graphics

In OS/4 your screen display is actually 312 pixels wide but you cannot access this disabled horizontal from BASIC. The following graphics commands:

#### PLOT DRAW CIRCLE

work exactly like they do in the normal system. Your screen's (X,Y) coordinates were X has a range of 0-255 and Y has a range of 0-175. The graphics will be drawn exactly as you would expect normally.

The graphics command POINT works a bit differently in OS/4 than with your normal system. Normally POINT tests the single screen pixel specified and returns the value one if that pixel is on and the value zero if that pixel is on.

With OS/4 you can specification coordinates with the same range (X=0-255) but two pixels are tested at once and the actual pixels tested (in the 312 wide screen) are (X/2,X/2) and (X/2+1,X/2).

The following values are returned by the POINT command and reflect the status of the two pixels tested:

- 0 = Both pixels off > 00
- 1 = Right pixel on > 01
- 2 = Left pixel on > 10
- 3 = Both pixels on > 11

#### Screen Saving

The normal method of SAVING SCREEN will not work for 64 column screens. To SAVE a 64 column screen you must SAVE two separate code blocks back-to-back as follows:

```
< SAVE "name" CODE 16384,16444 SAVE "name" CODE 24576,16444 >
```

To LOAD the SAVED screen, use the same technique with the LOAD command.

#### Using OS/4 With Zeltex Disk Drives

OS/4 is compatible with the ZEBRA Disk Driver with the following two exceptions:

- 1 - When you press the reset button on the disk drive interface module OS/4 will not boot-up properly unless you ensure the disk is -

(A) No disk in drive 'A' or

**Hopefully, a complete  
list of the items  
shipped from RMG will  
be in the next issue.**



[B] You have a "START" program on the disk in drive W with the following as its first line:...

```
<OUT 344,3 RANDOMIZE USR,3379>
```

```
Or for 6504 basic and auto-CRT as usual:
```

```
<OUT 344,3 RANDOMIZE USR,3379 CAT">
```

```
Or for 6504 basic and auto-start of program on reset:
```

```
<OUT 344,3 RANDOMIZE USR,3379 LOAD "name">
```

3 - Due to lack of knowledge on the TOS programmers part, the Disk MERGE command will not work with 6504 without special FORGE already providing MERGE commands. The following technique should allow you to MERGE from disk:

```
<POKE 26864,193 POKE 26863,144 POKE 26864,253
```

```
MERGE "name">
```

#### Extended System Variables

#	Index	Address	Name/Contents
2	45536	-	Unused location
2	45568	Type	Used by COPY routine
1	45510	CR	Code is not used by L.PRINT

and L.PRINT as carriage set.

1	45511	LF	Same as above but for line feed.
---	-------	----	----------------------------------

2	45512	COPY	Address of destination COPY routine. Normally points to ROM, but you can alter it to point to your own rts.
---	-------	------	---

1	45514	-	Unused location
---	-------	---	-----------------

1	45515	Type	Used by COPY routine
---	-------	------	----------------------

1	45516	COLUM	Used by COPY routine
---	-------	-------	----------------------

1	45517	MARK	Highest address in printer
---	-------	------	----------------------------

buffer with character at it.

1	45518	PRDAT	Printer data type.
---	-------	-------	--------------------

On character, 1=control codes or graphic data.

1	45519	LINE	Used by COPY routine
---	-------	------	----------------------

1	45520	Type	Used by COPY routine
---	-------	------	----------------------

2	45521	-	Unused location
---	-------	---	-----------------

2	45522	SPIN	Interface driver routine
---	-------	------	--------------------------

address. Normally points to ROM, but you can alter it to point to your own rts.

1	45525	WIDTH	Printer output width.
---	-------	-------	-----------------------

1	45526	-	Unused location.
---	-------	---	------------------

1	45527	PLAIDown	Various control flags
---	-------	----------	-----------------------

4	45528	COPYTab	Table of control codes for
---	-------	---------	----------------------------

COPY routine; table only

Dear Abel,

It's very long ago I have written to you. Please excuse I hope you will still enjoy our ZX-TEAM-MAGAZIN as much as I do with your ZX@QLive@live.

Unfortunately we had no English articles for a long period.

Please let me tell you about my ZX-TEAM Homepage. URL are at the bottom, where I have translated some of our things into the english language so there is wish all of you, who do not understand German. If you want, you can see everything for your mag.

Yours "Sebastian"

Peter

e-mail: [p.laebert@z-team.de](mailto:p.laebert@z-team.de)

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ZX@QLive@live!

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Since we seem to have "lost the string" on my generating an article your printing in the ZX@QLive and my generating the next article, etc., I will be sending it to you

collection of text about the 2048, was. The significance is, that these attitudes will come to you via the net, using your e-mail and my 2048! Fast back through them for something of interest, and then use it as an example application of the 2048 to the OK, that point, I just sent to you, seems to have been received with all of its character intact. It's just that the Full Duplex operation is so slow, as to drop that character (one or more per line,) when it points back onto my screen what it has just sent out over the phone line! It's all very complicated, but it seems to work OK. David B. Lasser, asymp, SOL 8855 @2048-MS2-8188

Looks, as though at least one character is being dropped at each line SENT to the net! This may be of interest to the readers of *XXn QLine Alive* Here is a listing, finer than usual mail!

Thanks, Alot, for allowing me two corrections to the source, NOT net news! The corrected version follows right here

### GARBAGE GORBLER

```
1 ROM 00.01 (Clarke's version)
5 LET q=0
10 FOR a=000 "a" TO 999 "a": READ d:
  FOR e a,d: NEXT a
15 DATA 40,124,239,240,240,240,127,60
20 DIMER 1: DIMER 7: DIM
25 FOR n=1 TO 8: PRINT INK INT
  NEXT n: AT INT (RAND*25): INT
  (RAND*24) " " : NEXT 1
30 LET r=21: LET c=0: INK 0
35 NEXT 0,00,-99: PRINT AT r,c;"A":
  LET r=r+1: LET c=c+1: LET s=00 31: IF s
  THEN GO TO 35
40 GO TO 35
55 LET s=s+(s+4)+(s+8)+(s+12)+(s+16)+(s+20)-
  (s+4)-(s+8)
60 LET s=s+(s+8)+(s+12)+(s+16)+(s+20)-(s+20)-
  (s+8)-(s+4)
65 LET s=s+(s+16)-(s+20)
70 LET c=c+1 (c+1)=(31+1)
75 PRINT AT r,c;" "
80 IF SCREEN# (r,c)="" THEN GO TO 30
101
85 GO TO 35
105 PRINT AT r,c;"A"
109 SOUND
0,244,1,2,4,3,1,7,1,4,4,16,9,16,10,16,12,1
00,1,9,9
110 PAUSE 30: SOUND 7,60
115 LET q=q+1: IF q=8 THEN GO TO 35
200 DIMER 1: INK 7: DIM
300 FOR n=1 TO 27: READ p,d
210 LET s=INT (RAND*22): LET c=INT
  (RAND*12)
215 PRINT AT r,c;"A": NEXT p,d
220 PRINT AT r,c;" " : INK 0
225 DATA
0,25,0,0,25,0,0,25,2,0,25,4,0,25,0,0 30,
4,0 5,2
230 DATA
0,25,0,0,25,0,0,25,3,0 25,4,0,5,3,0,5,-1
235 DATA
0,25,0,0,25,0,0,25,3,0,25,4,0,25,5
240 DATA 0,25,4,0,25,2,0,25,0,0,25,-
1,0,25,-0,8,25,-3,8,25,-1,8,2,0,0,25,0
9997 STOP
```

```
9199 GOSUB 9102,20: PRINT #990;"Data
  READ 7 " : PAUSE 0: LET d=CODE INK=
  CODE " : PRINT #990:d: RANDOMIZE INK
  100 GO TO d: RANDOMIZE INK 100: CAT "",
  INK 0,2,24: INPUT "Write: File Name ?
  " : LINE a: RANDOMIZE INK 100: OPEN
  a,25: TO LEN a$-2:"C:" : OUT " : LIST :
  RANDOMIZE INK 100: CLOSE 92: STOP
: ROM BASIC is order to generate TEXT
  FILE (L:CK)
```

The A in lines 33, 100, and 215 will all be replaced by the UICG, presumably lines 10 and 15. Of course, the A must be typed in with the cursor, changing to Q, or, a graphics mode for the A, only! And, the lines 9997 and 9998 are not part of the game, but were MERGED only to convert a BASIC listing (B) into a text file (CK).

## LAWYERS

1 A famous lawyer found himself at heaven's gates confronting St. Peter. He protested that it was all a mistake, he was only 40, and was far too young to be dead. "That's odd," said St. Peter, "according to the hours you've lived, you're 119 years old."

2 A young attorney who had taken over his father's practice rushed home elated one night. "Dad, listen," he shouted. "I've finally sorted that old McKinney man's 'Barred' case for unethical father. 'Well, I give due to you as an attorney for life.'"

3 A judge enters the courtroom, strikes the gavel and says, "Before I begin the trial, I have an announcement to make. The lawyer for the defense has paid me \$15,000 to hang the case his way. The lawyer for the plaintiff has paid me \$10,000 to hang the case his way. In order to make this a fair trial, I am receiving \$5,000 in the defense."

4 Upon seeing an elderly lady for the drafting of her will, the attorney charged her \$100. She gave him a \$100 bill, not noticing that stuck to it, was a second \$100 bill. Immediately the ethical questions arose in the attorney's mind. "Da! I tell my partner!"

5 If a lawyer and an IRS agent were both drowning, and you could only save one of them, would you go to lunch or send the paper?

6 Advertisers for their experiments, scientists are considering replacing rats with lawyers. Two reasons—there are more of them, and there are some things rats won't do.

7 "Never discuss religion with those who are so ignorant that they don't subscribe to your beliefs." — Douglas

A young woman accompanied her husband to the doctor's office. After the check-up, the doctor called the wife into his office alone.

"If you don't do the following," said the doctor, "your husband will surely die." "Each morning, fix him a healthy breakfast. Be pleasant and make sure he is in a good mood. I've heard, make him a nutritious meal, and for dinner prepare him an especially nice meal," the doctor continued.

"Don't burden him with chores, as he probably has a hard day. Don't discuss your problems with him. And most importantly, satisfy him every when."

On the way home the husband asked the wife what the doctor had said to her. "You're going to die," she replied.

# FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DISK

Donald Lambert



Since this is money time, my mind is on money. And that means thoughts about handling money. Of course it is a little late for someone of my age (more about that later) but this applies to anyone. Some of these are common sense and old repeated topics.

If it sounds too good to be true it probably is not true. I guess the Publishers' Clearing House newspaper is in that Category. And that would go for the Reader Digest magazine and the Family Publishers' magazine too. I used to read in to them religiously and this January I suddenly stopped. I will say I did get a check from Publishers' Clearing House and when I cashed it I asked the teller if they had enough money to cash a Publishers' Clearing House check. There was a lot of excitement till they saw that it was only for five dollars.

No one can watch your money as religiously as you can. If someone else is watching your money they are interested in what they can do with it or get out of it. Of course they will probably let others know about what money you have.

Nothing is not laying aside what is left over the end pay day. There won't be any left over. No matter how careful you are, the expenditures will equal the least what you have in the till/bid. Set up payroll deductions to a savings account and don't overlook savings bonds. One very big advantage of savings bonds is that until you cash them there is no interest to report on your income tax and if you are in a state that has state taxes, the interest is exempt from state taxes. Savings bonds are long lived so that you don't have to do anything to them for a very long time. They are one way to avoid the \$12,000 cap on not paying income tax on Social Security for married couples.

Way back when (1986) I had mortgage insurance on the second house we bought. The premium was \$8.46 a month and it was one of those deals where if I decrease for any reason then the original house mortgage would be paid off. If I kept it till I paid off the mortgage at the regular pay-off time then I would get a paid up policy of \$1380. Whoopie do? But at the time I took it out I had the feeling of security for my family. A few years later, my company dropped the insurance coverage we had and for something like \$2 a month I had three or almost four times the insurance that the mortgage insurance would pay off. So I canceled the mortgage insurance and got the cash out and paid that \$8.46 into my mortgage and every month paid off much more of the mortgage.

I did get into stocks once. I cashed in a bunch of savings bonds and went into the start up of a corporation. Learned what things look great on paper is actually they are not great. The important things are location, liquidity, location and compatibility, compatibility, compatibility. We started and all was great and then three big chain stores opened up less than six months after we did. Drove us out. We could have put more money into it after that but we could see bankruptcy coming, so why should we hurt others when we could get out before we lost more.

money. Since then we have just increased our net worth the hard way by saving our money and investing in CDs and Savings Bonds. Enough about money.

## Pre Christmas

Friday, the traditional first shopping day of the Christmas season, Wal-Mart had a special on a VCR. But since the store opened at 6 AM for the sale I decided not to get up early for that. I went later and still got a good buy, less money for a unit that did not have all the bells and whistles of the leader VCR but lots money too. I have a hooked up in my computer room using one of the two AMERSON Color-I monitors that I bought after my second Magovern died. It works just fine except that I had to improvise a cord to fit between the VCR and the monitor. The monitor jack is a 1/8" 50 ohm impedance. I found a 1/8" plug and a cord with an RCA jack one end and to fit the VCR and I so... I like the old ball-connector on the other end off and soldered the 1/8" plug on, bingo it worked. So I have viewed a few of the videos made of the answers at the T/S Computerists. When and if time permits and I am in the mood I will watch some more of the videos.

## ZZZzzTALKERS

I have two ZTALKERS, one for the TS 3008 and one for the Z801. The only difference that I can see is that the 3008 has a video connector, a antenna and lead that goes from the +15 on the plug in connector to the jack that can be used for external power to the ZTALKER. I tried the 3008 version and the computer refuses to execute the DOS of either the Giga or the LaRken disk system. I have a cassette of the ZTALKER program - will two programs. One is ZPE and the other is called ZPE seems to work but stiller refuses to do anything. I got a screen but it is frozen right there. I had to SAVE it to disk by NMJ before but the cassette version is frozen too. Any ideas on other problems?

## CASSETTE USERS

For those of you that use a Radio Shack Mini Amplifier - Speaker to enhance the LOADING of the program, there is a 110 VAC power supply that puts out (on the box and spec) 9 VDC. It is a Radio Shack 273-1445 and is \$7.99. In the project mentioned next I was using my amplifier powered by a 9 volt battery. But that required remembering to turn it off and in fact the way I have the computer power setup rigged I have a separate power strip that supplies power to the cassette recorder/play and for the amplifier. Turn it on and get a nice clean LOAD. It wouldn't take it wouldn't take long as battery savings to pry for the unit.

## 72 Years Old, Don Celebrates

Reverse the digits 72 (of my age) and you get 27th of

January which is my birthday. Further for you mathematicians (who there is the rule of 72 that bankers use. It is not exact down to the last penny but it is close. Take the interest rate and divide that into 72 and that gives the number of years that it will take to double your money. 6% would take 12 years. 5% would take 14.4 years. Through of that now, what did I do on my birthday?

I started to convert my big box of cassette programs for the 1600 to disk. I am doing it for two reasons. One is to get the best of disks out of the garage and two to learn something. Like Hugh Hefner wrote when he got involved in doing the QJ software library for TT&UC's "It is a learning experience to find out how to do it and to run the programs to see what they want."

The first tape that I started with was one that John Kozy sent me way back when before she acquired a Larkin disk interface. I finally got all the programs to disk although all night and now. Then I will have to sort later as some permits. One that I thought was the CODE for a program called up being a TASWORD II file explaining it. Amongst the programs was B1 which is Black Jack and there was the image that on first glance I said "there's Frank". B1 Albed can scan it as it will be later complete.

## Headmarkers

There are several header reader programs that I have found some just are header and quit with the display. Some actually output to a printer and they are so slow that by the time the tape is to the next header the printer is still chattering. I have one that stores the information on the screen all the screen is full. I can break and COPY that to the 1600 printer. That program does not give all the information that

I might need but so far it is useful. Later I may try to combine what I find use the best features of all the header programs and probably end up a mess.

```
And that brings up the program SCITAS.B1
10 REM SCITAS TO TASWORD TWO 1600 by
  Bob Sweager V1.3
20 CLS : PRINT "*****This program
  creates a SCREEN.01 TASWORD 2 file
  from a SCREEN.01 file provided it
  contains only printable characters."
  PRN# 1:3
30 RANDOMIZE USR 100: LOAD
  "SCREEN.01" CODE 31280,1408
40 INPUT A: PRINT A: FLAG#
1:"Converting SCREEN to TASWORD 2"
60 LET T=31280
60 FOR B=0 TO 21
70 FOR C=0 TO 31
```

```
80 FOR T, CODE SCREENS (B,C)
90 LET T=T+1
100 NEXT C
110 FOR T=T TO T+31 STEP 3
120 RANDOMIZE USR 100: FOR T, A0(T)
130 NEXT T
140 NEXT B
150 RANDOMIZE USR 100: SAVE
  "SCREEN.01" CODE 31280,1408
160 RANDOMIZE USR 100:
  LOAD "TASWORD.B1"
1990 RANDOMIZE USR 100:
  SAVE "SCITAS.B1" LIST: TO
  9999 RANDOMIZE USR 100:
  LOAD "B1"
1990 SAVE "SCITAS.B1"
LIST: TO
```

Since a lot of the programs that I want to LIST on the big printer are on Ogar disks I thought that I would convert the programs to Ogar. I converted all the RANDOMIZE USR 100 statements on the Ogar comments which is to put the / after the command like SAVE / "name" and when I come to line 130 I use no way to do that. I read LISTSTORES

which is the way to not start the Ogar DOS or even to leave off the reference to DOS and just have FOR# 1,1024 but I got "B-Increase out of range 128 3 error message". I read eliminating the line and it seemed to work. Except that when I LOADED the file into TASWORD II, to the right side of the listing was a patterned set of garbage. The file was 1408 bytes long and when I tried to move the TASWORD file to MSSCRIPT, I only got 10 bytes to move. I have successfully up to now transferred a TASWORD file to MSSCRIPT but of course the end of line and such was always off and had to be corrected. So that option is out.

The only way that I see to do it is to just LIST the program on the 1600 printer and tape the strips to a out-to-use file folder looking material and copy them on a copy machine. That might even be less time consuming if I have a very long program. I thought I had a converter to convert a TASWORD file to an MSSCRIPT file but I can't locate it if I do have it.

## ⚡ Static Electricity and El Niño ⚡

There has been the first winter here that we had to turn off the humidifier to keep the moisture down inside the house. Of course with the higher humidity there is no static electricity to speak of. In a normal winter I have to touch the ground strap which is a copper ball connected to a 1 Meg resistor to the electric outlet box ground. In extreme cold weather and low humidity I would get a mild shock when I did that. So who can say that El Niño blows us good? We have had a lot of rain and little snow this winter since we have had much warmer than normal temperatures here in Auburn.

## ☼ Shades of Murphy's Law ☼

Spent part of yesterday and today getting my disk drives back into operation. I had been powering them with two IBM style switching power supplies, each rated 67

# Blackjack



The Silicon Chip Casino  
Set for lower cases

Warn: I have four 3 1/2 height drives that I use and I have the first two (a 40 track and an 80 track) powered by one power supply and the other two are powered by another power supply. In my logs I had figured that if I was copying a disk then I could copy it to a drive powered by a different power supply and have less problems. Drive 0 is a 40 track and it had been making a start up noise. I thought that was normal for the drive. Well, when the drive started to give error messages I tried the other 40 track drive and it operated O.K. So I assumed that perhaps the drive was gunking. About that same time I learned that my Larkem RAMDISK had failed. I checked the batteries and found the voltage to be about 2.65 V which should be enough or so I thought since it seems that the chips require 2.00 volts or more to retain memory. I will on my next trip to Radio Shack buy a set of AAA batteries for the RAMDISK. I have a disk DATED April 1987 labeled RAMDISK back up so I am ready to copy it to RAMDISK. So I guess if a drive starts to make chattering noise that it could be a bad power supply.

### Header Reader ☞

Head 84 program has been successfully converted to automatically print out the header data to the T/S 2040 printer. So now I can put a cassette in the player and go do something else while the header reader is doing its duty. When I did was remove the PRINT statements that created extra blank lines and duplicated that line with the PRINT that printed to the screen with an LPRINT line and I commented the line number by one. I added a single PRINT after the Line 0 and the block length printers to space them so it was easier to read. It does make life easier. So are at my cassette to disk project.

### Letter from Dane Stegman

In the letter to status, "Also do you (know) anybody who would want about 24 boxes of 3 1/4 HD disks. I know that you cannot use them on a Tames-1000 or a 2060. All I ask is that someone pay the postage and they can have them. I have no use for them. All of my other cassettes (7) & AAA's cannot use them. If you know of someone who would like them let me know."

DANE STEGMAN  
26 MARSHALL AVE  
AARON NY 14001

### ☐ My Wife Hath Spoken ☐

I had left stuffers and there in my computer room in the process of getting the drives to operate and blammo my wife pointed out to me this morning that my computer room was messy. After I got it all going I moved the papers and parts back where I had gotten them out of. It is too bad that she has not seen GATON's computer room. Walk in and see what to the computer and hope nothing falls on you. Well if I had to re-setup a computer room I would have done it more like Bill Jones had his setup. A desk top of either a thick disc or else two thickets" of 1/4 plywood laid on top of a 2 drawer filing cabinet at each end with a long hatch on the top. The desk top would be about 84 to 86 inches long with the hatch about the same length. Would have one shelf of the hatch that would be for

notebooks and one shelf for disk cases. If we ever were that well be the next setup.

### RAMDisk Revisited ☐

Yesterday, I made a trip to Radio Shack and bought 4 AAA batteries for my RAMDISK. I have two, one with 4 RAMchips and one with 1 RAMchip. But on testing when I replaced the batteries the 4 chip one was blank and had to be reFORMATED. So I found the particulars in Bob Sweeper's updated Larkem manual (Thanks Bob!) and proceeded to FORMAT the RAMDISK. I tried to copy the backup disk to RAMDISK using TTSLC's Utility disk's Copy(2.8) which I had moved to RAMDISK but it hung up so I LOADED the program from the TTSLC Utility disk and it wouldn't work. I finally checked the RAMDISK directory and got nothing. I reFORMAT(Ed) it and checked and it had FORMATTed. So I shut off and LOADED the copy program by way of the tab on the ENTER key held down. Still wouldn't copy to RAMDISK.

I got the 4 chip RAMDISK from the box in the garage and replaced the batteries and checked, maybe the program were still there. I tried to copy using copy(2.8) and it would not work. It would LOAD the file and then stop. So I LOADED the program from the TTSLC disk and it worked. Well why wouldn't it work? So I copied the copy(2.8) to a freshly FORMATTed disk and then copied the bytes Hooke C1 to the disk and I tried it and it would not work. So I went over the printed out directory and discovered only one other bytes file that could possibly work and that was Move C1. So I ERASEd Hooke C1 and copied Move C1 to the disk and bingo it worked. So I erased Hooke C1 from the RAMDISK and copied Move C1 to it and then it worked. Using copy(2.8) that was on RAMDISK, I made a backup disk and it worked. I had two programs that I liked to use and wanted them on RAMDISK, they are on the DUS disk but neither of them that I had on RAMDISK would work. Scanning the printed out directory I discovered that both had plenty of byte or code files (4 each), I had only copied one each to RAMDISK. So I had to trust and guess what I wanted on the RAMDISK since a few chip versions only has 24 tracks and one is the directory. So the 4 chip model has no spare space now.

That was yesterday and today I once again tried the 4 chip RAMDISK. I got to thinking that maybe I had put a battery in backwards once when I checked the batteries after it wouldn't work, I couldn't get a reading. So I removed the batteries and put them in the 4 chip RAMDISK. Today I checked and got 1.15 volts where the battery holder leads entered the mount board. I got a good FORMAT, after I waited it off a few minutes it was still responsive so successfully. So copied the 4 chip contents by way of the disk backup to the 8 chip RAMDISK and had no problems. I must have corrected one battery backwards. All's well that ends well. But it did have me scratching my head for who to send it to for repair. Now I have 24 blocks to LOAD with programs.

That's all for this issue. What will I be doing next? Back around and find out G2.

# QL Hacker's Journal

Supporting All QL Programmers

#27 January 1996

The QL Hacker's Journal (QHJ) is published by Tim Swinehart as a service to the QL Community. The QHJ is freely distributable. Post notices are available on disk, via e-mail, or via the Anonymous FTP server, gopher.wiscnet.edu. The QHJ is always on the back end for article submissions.

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## Editor's Forum

The QHJ is back. After a year of taking a break, I'm back in the programming spirit again. Of course, I have not been inactive during that time, as any reader of QL Today can attest. I just have not felt like writing my programs for a while. I guess I did get burnt out a bit. Now we'll see how long before I get burnt out again.

Having recently purchased Qliberator, I have found its manual similar to the original QL manual, full of references, but kind of hard to find without reading the whole manual. I'm all for reading the whole manual, but sometimes it takes a while to figure out exactly how to apply what you are reading. I sometimes like manuals that are more "If you want to do this, this is how to do it."

From this thought, came the idea for the "Qlib Source Book", which will be something similar to the "286 Source Book". The Qlib Source Book will be a collection of existing knowledge about the 286. Most of the 286 Source Book came from older published sources. With Qlib, there does not seem to be a wealth of published material helping the beginning Qlib user. So, time to send out a query and ask for material.

If you are an experienced Qlib user and have a few tricks that you would like to pass on, please send them to me (either hard copy, disk or e-mail). If you are a beginning Qlib user and you have questions that you would like to see answered, send them too. Since I do not have the knowledge to really do the subject well, I will play the role of editor. I'll collect the different submissions and put them in an organized document. The Qlib Source Book will be featured in its electronic form. Like the 286 Source Book, a hard copy version will probably be available at minimal cost. With the 286 Source Book the price of the book covered the cost of production and a small profit to PWD-Compiling. It was my way of supporting the primary US QL dealer.

Through the QHJ and QL Today I'll keep QLans informed of my progress. I've already volunteered Delays Jones to help in writing some parts. Delays has a number of years of experience with Qliberator and producing commercial software.

So, here is the long awaited next issue of the QHJ. Feel free to send any comments, complaints, articles, large

demonstrations, hints, etc. Easy.

## Regular Expressions

In all the years that I've been dealing with UNIX, one of the things that I have not taken the time to really learn is Regular Expressions. Regular expressions are based on a meta-language used for pattern matching in a number of UNIX search utilities. The most well known of these programs is grep and its variations fgrep and egrep. The term "grep" is even derived from the words "regular expression".

No matter what operating system you have used, you have probably run across a regular expression. Most operating systems have a way of understanding something like this, "dir \*.\*". In MS-DOS this means to list all files that end with a dot extension. In QDOS, the equivalent phrase would be "wild file \*.\*". The asterisk is star, "\*", is a wild card and means to match all strings. The asterisk is really a metacharacter. Metacharacters are special characters that mean different things in the regular expression language. More experienced users of MS-DOS may have used something like this, "dir \*.\*?\*" This means to match all files that start with a dot in the extension. It will match dir, dir, dir, and others. The question mark is a metacharacter that means to match any character of length one.

So what does all this mean to QDOS users? Well, a version of grep has been ported to the QL and comes with the Qlib distribution. Grep is a very powerful and popular utility that can fill a number of needs. It is used to extract lines of text from files, but with its handling of regular expressions, it can be very smart on what it extracts. Once you know how grep works and how to use it, you will probably remember a time when it would have been useful to you.

With grep, you can do two things with its output, it can go to standard output or you can redirect it to a file. Since the QL does not have standard output, the QL version of grep opens a window to display its results. It also supports file redirection. This means that you can send the output of grep to a file to be dealt with later.

To demonstrate the file redirection, let's take a look at a short grep example. In this example we have a text file and we want to find all lines that have the word QL in them.

```
execs filpi_grep "ql filpi_file.in >
filpi_file.out"
```

Since we are using arguments, we have to put them in quotes after the grep command. The results of the grep will now be in the file filpi\_file.out.

Before we go to file, let's talk about these major concepts in regular expressions: characters, metacharacters, and character classes. A character is basically a byte, be it a text byte or binary byte. Metacharacters are a set of characters that are part of the regular expression language. In the examples above, the asterisk is a metacharacter. A

character class is a way of matching a group of characters.

Let's take a look at the metacharacters.

A character matches itself. Any character or string of characters are taken as literals. If you want to find the string "ing" in a file you would use the regular expression "ing". Most of the times when I am using grep, I use only literal characters.

A dot (.) matches any character, but only 1 character similar to the question mark in REG-EXES. If you want to find a word in a text file that has three letters, starts with a B and ends with D, then you would use the regular expression B.D (grep is case sensitive). Upper case letters has only been used to highlight the example.)

The caret (^) means the beginning of a line. If you want to find all lines that start with the word "The", you would use the regular expression "The".

The dollar sign (\$) means the end of a line. If you want to find all lines that end with the word "end", you would use the regular expression "end\$".

The question mark (?) is used to match an optional character. If you wanted to find the word "color" but don't know if the British spelling "colour" is used, the regular expression "color?" would work. The ? means optional.

The plus (+) is used to match one or more items. If you want to find the words helper or helps, but not just help, you would use the regular expression "help+". The plus must match at least one character or it will fail.

The asterisk (\*) is used like +, but it allows a null match. To find the words helper, helps and help, the regular expression "help\*" would work. The asterisk allows for no character, as in the case of just help.

To get a little more power out of regular expressions, there is a metacharacter for the logical OR, the pipe symbol (|). Say you have a text file with a bunch of e-mail messages and you want to find all of the From and Subject lines, you would use the regular expression "From|Subject".

Now that you know how to use the OR metacharacter, you will find that you need to limit the OR. That's where the parentheses () come in. Using the last example of finding the From and Subject lines from e-mail messages, using the regular expression "From|Subject" will also find lines with either word in them. With e-mails, the From is the From line is always followed by a colon, "From:". The same goes for Subject. Now how do we write a regular expression for that? One way is this: "From|Subject". This will work, but a "cleaner" approach is this: "(From|Subject)". Since AND's are assumed in regular expressions, what you get is that "( From OR Subject ) AND ". Just like in math, the parentheses control the bounds of the OR condition.

The backslash (\) is used to make a metacharacter a literal. If you want to look for all lines that end with a full sentence, meaning they end with a period, you could use the following regular expression ".\n". Now, since the period is a metacharacter you will find all lines that end with a character. To get grep to use the period as a period, you need to use the backslash like this, "\.\\n". The backslash tells grep to take the next character as a literal and not to escape it.

Character classes are used as a way to search for groups of characters. Say you wanted to search the

numbers less than 4. You could do this with "[023]" Using the brackets, you could also create a character class "[123]". The true power of the character class comes when using the period. The period means to create a range of characters (Metacharacter means something else when in a character class). In the last example, the character class could also be written as "[1-3]", meaning all characters from 1 to 3. To define the letters of the alphabet the character class would be "[a-zA]". Since grep is case sensitive, a better character class would be "[a-zA-Z]".

You can set up character in a character class any way you like. Say you have to find all occurrences of numerical dates in a file. Dates could be defined as 7-21-97, or 2/21/97, or even 7.21.97. You want to find any dates with a dash, slash, or period. You would create the character class "[-/.]". Remember that the period means only itself when inside a character class and does not mean to match a single character. So to find our dates, we would use the regular expression "[-/.] [0-9]\*".

The caret (^) means identifying char when used in a character class, it means to negate the class. If you want to match anything but numbers, you would create the character class "[^0-9]". The caret works to negate when it is immediately used after the opening bracket. If it is used after that it only means itself. The character class "[^.-]" matches only a dash, period, or caret.

If you are interested in learning more, check out the book "Mastering Regular Expressions" by Jeffrey Friedl.

## End-Of-File Finding

A lot of the programs that I like to write are filters. They take a text file as input, do something to the file, and output the results to a second file. Doing this involves reading a file one line at a time. A way of doing this would be something like this:

```
REPEAT loop
  INPUT #4, and
  IF EOF(#4) THEN EXIT loop
  PRINT and
ESD REPEAT loop
```

This algorithm will work, except that it will not output the last line. When I first tried this, I could not figure out why the last line was not being output. It was all based on how I saw the program being executed. I thought that the INPUT statement would read to the end-of-file (EOF) marker and then do a compare. What is really happening is that the last line is read in, then the EOF check is made. Since the file pointer advanced after reading in the last string, it is now pointing at the EOF marker. When the EOF check is done, it returns TRUE and the EXIT loop is done. A better example would be this:

```
REPEAT loop
  IF EOF(#4) THEN EXIT loop
  INPUT #4, and
  PRINT and
END REPEAT loop
```

This will print out the last line of the file. But, the algorithm also has its faults. It assumes that there is an end-of-line (EOL) marker at the end of the last line. If there was no EOL, and only the EOF, an error would occur reading in the last line.

A better manner would read in each character and put the

line together while constantly checking for an EOF. Here is an example:

```
DEF PROCEDURE read_line
  int=0
  REPEAT loop
    IF EOF(#4) THEN EXIT loop
    byte1 = INKEY#(#4,-1)
    int = int + 1 AND a byte1
  END REPEAT loop
  RETURN int
END DEF read_line
```

It would be used like this:

```
next_line = read_line
```

If using QBasic, you can use the Q\_KEY function to locate EOF. Q\_KEY can only trap for EOF after the fact. You keep reading through the file until you get an EOF error, which is trapped by Q\_KEY. This means that you would check for Q\_ERROR after an INPUT statement.

```
As an example:
Q_KEY ON "INPUT"
REPEAT loop
  INPUT #4,int
  IF Q_KEY = -10 THEN EXIT loop
PRINT int
END REPEAT loop
Q_KEY OFF
```

### Background Programs

Back in the hey-days of MS-DOS, before MS-Windows, there was a neat type of program called "Taskman & Lazy Randy" (TLR). The program would be LOADED up at boot time, remain in memory while other programs were running, and could be called up at any time. The program would stay in the background until a fancy key sequence was typed in, then it would pop-up in front of the current program and be ready to do something. Taskload was the first popular program to do this.

Since MS-DOS could not multitask, how this was done is still a mystery to me. In the QDOS world, where multitasking is a reality, a program like this is fairly easy to do. Since SuperBasic will not multitask, the .com program has to be compiled in some way. For this article, I'll use QBasic to compile SuperBasic.

A background job is designed to be hidden and not appear until it needs to. This means that the program will not immediately open any windows and only open them when necessary.

When compiling this with QBasic, be sure to turn the WINDOW option off. The program will open it's own window. If you have WINDOWS turned on, the program will execute but you will need to do a CTRL-C to get back to QDOS. If anybody knows exactly what I'm doing wrong, please let me know.

```
100 job = Q_KEY(0)
110 CP job,128
120 x = KEY$ROW(C)
130 IF x = 26 THEN
140  MIDQ 1000,10
150 OPEN #0,APP,500x400x100,12
160 PAPER #1,0 INK #1,2 BORDER #1,1 CLS
#1
170 PRINT #1,"Hello"
180 x = INKEY$(#1)
```

```
190 CLOSE #0
```

```
200 END IF
```

```
210 GO TO 100
```

### MicroEmacs Line Numbering

I've been meaning to tinker around with MicroEmacs macros for some time, but never got around to it. Recently I decided to take the time to really give it a try. Of all of the text editors available for the Q, I think MicroEmacs is the most powerful. It's macro language is the most robust of the editors. Both QED and ED have macros that can automate keyboard commands, but they don't have any logic (IF THEN) or structure (WHILE) features. MicroEmacs has looping and logic controls.

As an example, I thought that a line number macro would be nice. The following macro goes to the beginning of the file and starts putting line numbers on each line. Before it does, it asks you for a starting line number, which are incremented in 10's. To determine when to stop processing, I had to know when the macro had reached the end of the file. Since there is no end-of-file checking mechanism, I had to move to the end of the file and get the line number of the last line. This way, there could be the while loop. If there are lots of empty lines at the bottom of the file, there macros will number them also. A check could be put in the test if the current line is empty, but this would not work if a line had only white space in it. (this is under review)

I noticed two differences between the occurrence of MicroEmacs and ED/ED2 macros. One ED/ED2 macros are kind of slow and take a while to run. MicroEmacs macros are very fast. Total run time for this macro in an 80 line routine was about 1-2 seconds. Two, when executing ED/ED2 macros you can see what is going on as it happens. The screen updates with each command. With MicroEmacs, the screen seems to update only at the end of the macro. When the macro went to the bottom of the file and then returned to the top, I thought it would display the movement, but it did not. If you do want to update the display while a macro is executing, there is a redraw screen command that you can use.

The documentation for the MicroEmacs macros is good at documenting the different commands, but it falls short of providing many examples. I used other macros that came with MicroEmacs to learn from. This can slow down the learning process, but there is no other alternative. In some ways I use the same technique as other languages. I keep bits of code around so I don't have to remember how to do a routine in a particular language. I just go through my old code.

```
Line Numbering Macro
set line_num P(Starting Line Number)
end-of-file
set line_lines homeLine/LET
tot_line=Line number + EOF
beginning-of-file
while line < tot_line
  tot_line=
  insert-string line_num
  insert-string " "
  set line_num 4add line_num 10/LET
  line num=Line num+10
```



```
next-line
Pendwhile
beginning-of-file
```

## Adding Config Blocks To QLib Programs

BasConfig is a utility, written by Oliver Fink, that creates config blocks for Qliberator compiled programs. For those that don't know, config blocks are various chunks of data added to programs that are changeable by the user, using the program "config". In other words, if you have a program and you want the user to be able to change the size of the program window, you can put the variables for the window size in a config block, and let the user configure anytime they want. Config blocks are part of the executable and do not interfere with the running of the program. The "config" program knows where in the executable the config block is and knows how to change it.

Another way of looking at the config block is to an object that has some data that is used by your program and is separate from your program. In fact, until your program is compiled, the config block is a separate file from your SuperBasic program. This block is accessible from both your program and the "config" program.

BasConfig creates a file that has the config block and some SuperBasic extensions that allow the program access to the block. These extensions need only be LINKed when you are developing your program. They can be compiled into your program and become part of the executable.

Before you use BasConfig, you need to define what type of data you want the user to be able to change. There are 7 different data types that are allowed in config blocks:

```
String
Long Word
Word
Byte
Select
Code
Char
```

BasConfig does not support the Long Word or Select data types. I don't have any documentation on config, so I can't say exactly what the difference is between the types other than what is obvious.

To access the data in the config block, there is a function for each data type supported by BasConfig:

```
C_STRING(n) = String
C_WORD(n) = word
C_BYTE(n) = Byte
C_CODE(n) = Code
C_CHAR(n) = Char
```

The function returns the Nth data type in the config block. If you have two CHAR's and one STRING data type in the config block and you wanted to get the second CHAR, you would do something like this:

```
(char = C_CHAR(2))
```

If your config block does not have a CHAR data type, you should be back more sort of error (I have not tested this).

To learn how all of this works, I created a SuperBasic program that opens a window and displays the

contents of the two BYTE data items in a config block. The example code is:

```
100 REMARK $BasConfig_test.cfg, 0, 10
110 EXT FN "C_BYTE"
120 OPEN #0,dir [data]openopen
130 READ #0,0:"DNR #0,0; C0 #0
140 item1 = C_BYTE(1)
150 item2 = C_BYTE(2)
160 PRINT #0,"item #0 = "item1
170 PRINT #0,"item #0 = "item2
180 PAUSE 500
190 CLOSE #0
```

Note the `$BasConfig` directive that links the config block into the program. It is BasConfig that creates the block, which includes the 3 functions to access the config block. The `EXT FN` command tells Qliberator that the references to `C_BYTE` will be resolved at link time.

To create the config block, use `basconfig.qib`. The program will ask you for how many different config items you want. For this example, I entered 2. Next you are asked to enter the name of your final program and its version number. This is used by the "config" program to let the user know exactly what program they are configuring. These numbers can not be changed by the user.

Now the program will query you for the data types for the first data item. You can scroll through the data types by hitting the left arrow key. I scrolled over to "Byte" and hit return. Since each data type is different the next few questions will be different for each data type. In the case of the "Byte" data type the ones were initial value, Minimum value, & Maximum value. The Min and Max values give you control of the changes the user can make, so that a "bad" configuration can't be made. For this example, I gave the first item a initial value of 40 and the second a value of 20.

Once I answered all of the questions for the second config item, the program asked for a file to store the config block. It looks like the convention for config block file name extension is `.cib`.

Now, the documentation for BasConfig is very sparse. I had to figure out how to get the data out of the config block by reading the source code for BasConfig. So, I have only done just enough to get a fair idea of what is going on and how to get it to work.



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Mike Knudsen, President, GCCC

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Frank & Carol Davis of FWD Computing will attend. Q-BOX and TONUG have indicated that they will be there

**Glenside Color Computer Club**

**119 Adobe Circle**

**Carpentersville, IL 60110, USA**

We need to know if you plan to attend - the 7th annual **LAST** Chicago CoCoFest and CoCo Family dinner, Saturday April 18-19, 1998. Please let us know by using the boxes below. Then place it, in an envelope, with the address above and postage

Fest \$10

Dinner \$16

Both \$25

☐ will attend the fest

☐ will attend dinner also

☐ number attending

Hi folks, not only is FWD Computing going to be at the CoCoFest with Amiga software, we also will be bringing stuff for Sinclair, Cambridge, Mac and PC computers! See you there

**Frank Davis**

**FWD Computing**